MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 MAY 1982

Israel

No-Confidence Motion — The Knesset defeated the Alignment's no-confidence motion by 58 to 57 votes, Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor told MK's in an announcement broadcast live by IDF radio. The two Telem MK's and one Tehiya MK abstained, according to the roll call of the vote broadcast by the radio. The government will now attempt to coopt Tehiya and possibly Telem into the coalition, the radio said. Jerusalem radio said that in previous contacts with the government, Tehiya had demanded that Jerusalem should not be an issue for discussion in any negotiations and that the settlement program in Judaea and Samaria should be accelerated.

In his speech, which concluded the debate and was broadcast live by the radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin accused the Alignment of "dirty tactics" but predicted that the government would not fall. After the vote, Begin said Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres' political career is now coming to an end since the Labor Party will not forgive him for failure, the radio reported. However, in an IDF radio interview, Peres denied the Alignment had failed to obtain its objective. The Alignment had succeeded in its aim of raising the economic issue, Peres said, and had never expected to win the no-confidence vote.

Location of Embassies -- Prime Minister Begin has appealed to all democratic nations to follow Costa Rica's example and establish their embassies in Jerusalem, the Jerusalem POST reported. Meanwhile, Zaire's ambassador in Brussels disclosed that his country's embassy will be situated in Tel Aviv and criticized whoever had announced it would be located in Jerusalem, according to Jerusalem radio. Following the Zairian decision to resume ties with Israel, Tunisia has recalled its ambassador in Kinshasa for consultations, AFP noted.

Relations With U.S. -- In a reply message to Prime Minister Begin, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig expressed understanding for Israel's position on the cease-fire along the northern border and praised Israel's restraint, Jerusalem radio reported.

Tel Aviv's YOMAN HASHAVU'A claimed that the U.S. consul in east Jerusalem has been negotiating with PLO supporters in Judaea and Samaria and has boycotted moderate Palestinian leaders who have reservations about the PLO.

PLO-Lebanon

VOP on Cease-Fire -- A commentary by the Clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the forthcoming visit to the Middle East of U.S. envoy Morris Draper is aimed at introducing Israel's arbitrary interpretation of the cease-fire in south Lebanon. When the PLO responded to UN calls for a cease-fire in July 1981, it was clear this commitment to cease fire would not be applied outside the southern border of Lebanon and would not limit the PLO's inalienable right to resist occupation and exercise legitimate struggle, the radio said. If Israel abides by the correct interpretation of the cease-fire, the PLO will continue to adhere to it without this affecting the PLO's right to resist the enemy on all levels, particularly in the occupied homeland, the radio concluded.

Mines in Border Strip -- A militia patrol in Maj Sa'd Haddad's southern border enclave discovered two newly-laid antitank mines near Marj 'Uyun, Jerusalem radio reported on 20 May.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian troops repulsed a "last-ditch" attack by Iraqi forces along the northern Khuzestan border and inflicted heavy losses on armored and mechanized units of Iraq's 12th and 9th Divisions, Tehran radio reported. A later radio report claimed that 45 Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed during the attack. According to a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio, three Iraqi planes were shot down near Abadan on 18 May and another three were shot down in the Khorramshahr region on 19 May.

An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement carried by INA, claimed that 658 Iranians were killed and 18 tanks destroyed during an Iraqi attack on Iranian positions north of Khorramshahr. An Iraqi commander disclosed that the Iranians have pulled back their armored units from the frontlines west of the Karun River and north of Khorramshahr, INA reported. Since 30 April, 35,793 Iranians have been killed and 480 tanks and 31 planes were destroyed, according to a report by the weekly magazine ALIF BA' cited by INA.

Saudi Arabia

The Gulf countries warn Iran against the consequences of taking any action against them and warn it that any such step "will cost it dearly," a Riyadh radio commentary declared. The commentary said the Gulf countries understand the meaning of collective responsibility when a GCC member is threatened. It added that the Iranian leaders are fooling themselves if they believe the GCC states fear them or if they believe the GCC will wait for Iran to start implementing its threats against them.

Iran

Revolution Court Prosecutor General Hoseyn Musavi-Tabrizi revealed that former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh and a number of other persons will be tried before the end of June for their alleged involvement in a plot to kill Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and seize power, AFP reported citing ETTELA'AT. The defendants will appear before a revolution court presided over by a military judge. Meanwhile, the clandestine Voice of Iran radio reported that Qotbzadeh tried to commit suicide on 15 May.

Egypt

Syrian Airlines Delegation — A Syrian Airlines delegation is now in Cairo to discuss the resumption of flights between Damascus and Cairo, the Jordanian paper AL-'UFUQ AL-IQTISADI reported. Monitored Egyptian media have not reported the presence of the Syrian delegation.

'Ali Remarks — Egypt wants a prompt end to the Iran-Iraq war, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan'Ali declared in an interview with the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported by MENA. 'Ali added that Egypt views the Gulf states as its first strategic line of defense and considers these countries essential to its security. Asked what Egypt could do in the event Iran defeats Iraq, 'Ali said Egypt can give Iraq a lot of assistance if requested. The report did not specify the nature of the assistance.

Return of AL-AHALI — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat sent a message to Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, secretary general of the Egyptian National Progressive Union Group, and to the editorial staff of the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHALI congratulating them on the paper's reappearance, Voice of Palestine radio reported. 'Arafat said the PLO had looked forward with hope to the reappearance of "our struggling newspaper" as a weapon added to the arsenal of the Arab liberation forces.

Sudan

First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib has called for an Arab summit conference to discuss Arab problems, above all the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the achievement of Palestinian rights, MENA reported citing a statement by At-Tayyib to the Egyptian paper AL-AKHBAR. At-Tayyib said Sudan is conducting serious contacts with the Arab states with a view toward convening an Arab summit conference, that would be attended by Egypt, as soon as possible.

DAILY REPORT

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BAHRAINI-ZAMBIAN JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED 19 MAY

GF191347 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 May 82

["Text" of Bahraini-Zambian joint statement issued in Manama on 19 May at conclusion of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda's visit to Bahrain 18-19 May 1982 -- read by announcer]

[Text] At the invitation of his highness the amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, His Excellency Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda led a high-ranking delegation on a visit to the State of Bahrain 18-19 May. The distinguished guest and the delegation accompanying him were accorded a warm official welcome. His Highness the amir was at the head of the delegation that received the distinguished guest.

Formal talks between the Bahraini side, headed by his highness the amir, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and the Zambian side, headed by His Excellency President Dr Kenneth Kaunda, were held in an atmosphere of understanding. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields and agreed on the necessity of developing them for the good of their two countries and peoples. The Bahraini and Zambian sides discussed the situation in the Middle East and expressed their conviction that the deteriorating situation is caused by Israel's expansionist and aggressive nature in the region. They agreed that just and lasting peace in the region cannot be achieved without Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the retrieval of the legal national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent state in their homeland under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative. In this regard, the two sides affirmed the importance of the continuous African support for the Palestinian people to safeguard international law and realize the principles of the UN Charter.

The two sides also discussed African affairs and reiterated their support for the independence of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO and in accordance with UN decisions. They also reiterated their support for the struggle of South Africa's people against the racial discrimination policy of the regime in South Africa. They condemned the continuous and repeated military aggressions of the South African racist regime against the African countries.

The two sides affirmed their full support for Arab-African cooperation to develop Arab-African relations in various fields for the good and prosperity of Arab and African countries.

Reviewing the situation in the Gulf region, the two sides expressed their concern over the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and stressed the necessity of putting an end to fighting in order to prevent external forces from exploiting the dangerous deteriorating situation and instability between the two countries.

With regard to the international situation, the two sides affirmed their endeavor to stick to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations and to support the efforts exerted by the United Nations to establish principles of international peace. They also affirmed their adherence to the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states and respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

The talks between the two sides were conducted in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding. Views were identical on all issues and matters discussed, reflecting the cordial relations existing between the two friendly countries.

His Excellency Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda expressed his regard and appreciation for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation by his Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and the people and Government of Bahrain. The distinguished guest expressed his thanks to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah for the generous invitation to visit Bahrain and invited him to make an official visit to Zambia. His Highness gratefully accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit at a date that will be determined later.

TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 19 MAY

GF191202 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Manama, 19 May (WAKH) -- Tanzanian Foreign Minister Salim Ahmad Salim arrived in Manama from Muscat this morning on a 3-day visit to Bahrain on his tour of the region's states. The Tanzanian minister was received by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

Meets With Foreign Minister

GF191330 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 May 82

[Excerpt] A meeting between Bahraini Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Tanzanian Foreign Minister Salim Ahmad Salim was held at the Foreign Ministry at 1130 today. It was attended by 'Ali al-Mahrus, director of political administration at the Foreign Ministry; Karim ash-Shukr, adviser at the Foreign Ministry; and the delegation accompanying the Tanzanian minister. During the meeting they reviewed and discussed bilateral relations and the means of developing and strengthening them in the various fields, Arab-African cooperation and issues of mutual interest.

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOR DOHA 19 MAY

GF191156 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0835 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Manama for Doha this morning following a 2-day visit to Bahrain. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal delivered a message from King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia to Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah on bilateral relations and current developments in the region. He was seen off at the airport by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

PRIME MINISTER ON WAR, SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT

GF191241 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 18 May 82 p 1

[By Ahmad al-Jarallah]

[Text] Kuwait, May 17 -- The war between Iraq and Iran is in danger of escalating and affecting the whole area if not stopped, Bahrain's Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah told me during an exclusive interview in Bahrain yesterday. He added that one warring party was flexible and the other was not. "We say that mediation should be consolidated with collective attitudes in case of the failure of mediation by any party." The war is one of attrition, Shaykh Khalifah went on, and both sides are sending their best youth to the battle front.

"We know that international parties cannot intervene directly with their forces. But they can pave the way through parties in the region, so that their presence is legal. We do not want this situation for either Iraq or Iran or any other regional states. We hope we will not give the superpowers the opportunity to intervene in our internal affairs, as we are burning our fingers by ourselves."

Shaykh Khalifah holds a diwania every Sunday at his office where people can meet him freely. He told me his busy agenda did not permit him to travel outside Bahrain.

Asked if he believed there were parties paving the way for circumstances that would affect the prosperity of the region, Shaykh Khalifah said that development in the Gulf area could not be compared with development elsewhere in the world for many reasons. He said that the stability of the region furthered development. The regimes had secured political stability for their people as well as the just distribution of wealth. "We are making efforts to continue distribution of wealth in a just way. Citizens should help to defend the benefits they have gained by creating the prerequisites of stable atmosphere," Shaykh Khalifah continued.

In recent years, good relations have existed between regimes in the Gulf and Arabia, and attempts to undermine these relations were foiled. The stable atmosphere which have marked the last few years has resulted in increasing wealth and promoting development, Bahrain's prime minister said. The trend is to develop the construction field and its cadres, but this has led to competition, and some were affected by these development. "But in the long run no strange currents will hamper the process of development" Shaykh Khalifah emphasised.

Replying to a question as to whether he believed the philosophy of establishing the Gulf Cooperation Council required more pushing, Shaykh Khalifah said, "Honestly, I say that good relations exist between the regimes of the states in the GCC and the peoples of the region. They are encouraging us to more initiatives and achieving of the aims of the council."

The idea of offshore banks in Bahrain came as a result of consultations between states of the region, and nobody will be harmed by its implementation, Shaykh Khalifah said. Permission for establishing offshore banks in Bahrain was not given to everybody. Only establishments which play a big role in banking or are supported by governments were given permission. As a result of this selectivity, Bahrain became a financial center on a level with international ones. Shaykh Khalifah added that the ultimate aim was to create economic integration and not competition amongst Arab Gulf states. He said that Bahrain's stock market can absorb more companies provided they were established at the proper time and in new fields. New companies would be registered when the time was considered favorable.

Shaykh Khalifah said, "We are preparing to establish the Bahrain stock exchange. Dealing here will not be restricted to Bahraini company shares but will include other Gulf and international shares so that our stock market will be on the pattern of international ones." He added that the stock market would be within the framework of the economic integration Bahrain hoped to attain along with "our brothers in member states of the GCC."

Asked about the political situation in Bahrain, the prime minister said, "Frankly, Bahrain's regime is convinced that participation in responsibility through traditional establishments is not necessary." He explained that Bahrain did not have a large population and a big number of districts, so the regime was able to follow up the problems of Bahrain society.

Shaykh Khalifah added that the problems also occur in a society which has no expansionist ambitions or military dreams. Bahrain was not a developed country seeking markets abroad.

"Our problems are connected with living itself in view of the country's development, and not connected with international problems." He said that when Bahrain reached the stage of creating a climate in which interests were accurately known, then the state would not be reluctant to complete the traditional constitutional establishments.

In reply to a question as to why development averages were high in the Gulf, Shaykh Khalifah said that in the past oil capital was invested abroad. During the past 20 years large sums of money were kept abroad by public bodies and individuals in the belief that this money was safe. But those who invested their money inside the country gained results which could not be compared with investments abroad in foreign currencies or precious metals. Shaykh Khalifah continued, "Those who invested abroad discovered that their countries were stable and they should invest their money at home."

He said that the late shah of Iran, for example, did not enjoy stability outside his country despite his immense wealth. In addition, last year marked good relations between the regimes and their peoples in the Gulf and other parts of Arabia. This was especially the case when the regimes succeeded in distributing wealth in a just way, and allowed private sector and individuals to invest both inside the country and abroad.

KUWAIT

IRAQ'S TARIQ 'AZIZ DELIVERS INVITATION TO AMIR

LD190928 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 19 May 82

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 19 May (KUNA) -- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Kuwait last night on the final leg of a tour that has taken him to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the YAR.

The amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, today received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message, delivered by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, contains an invitation to Shaykh Jabir to attend the nonaligned countries' summit conference scheduled to be held in Baghdad in September, it was announced.

QATAR

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN DOHA 19 MAY

GF191328 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 19 May 82

[Excerpt] Doha, 19 May (WAKH) -- Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Doha today on an official visit to Qatar as part of his current tour of a number of the region's states.

Meets With Amir

GF191415 Doha QNA in Arabic 1200 19 May 82

[Text] Doha, 19 May (QNA) -- Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani has received a message from King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

QNA has learned that the message deals with current developments in the Gulf region, the close, fraternal and firm relations between the two fraternal countries and the means of strengthening and developing them in various fields, in addition to a number of issues of mutual interest with the framework of the continuing consultations and contacts between the two countries. The message was delivered by Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during his meeting with the Qatari amir today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and Qatari defense minister; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs; 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwwari, Qatari information minister; 'Abd ar-Rahman Hamad al-'Atiyah, Qatari ambassador to Saudi Arabia; 'Abd al-Muhsin Sulayman az-Zayd, Saudi ambassador to Qatar; and the members of the delegation accompanying Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Makes Statement, Departs

GF191910 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Doha, 19 May (WAKH) — Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Doha for home today following a brief visit to Qatar.

In a pre-departure statement, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said his visit to Qatar was within the framework of bilateral consultations that have been taking place since the GCC foreign ministers meeting was held and that will continue until it resumes on 30 May.

Referring to Saudi Arabia's decision to sever diplomatic relations with Zaire, the Saudi minister stressed that this decision was taken on the basis of a collective decision by Arab countries. He said: "We have no other choice, especially with regard to the Israeli stubbornness in the region."

In his statement to QNA, he added: "We do not believe the time is suitable for any measures, apart from condemnation measures against Israel, and especially those made by the African states." He noted the full Arab support received by the African states for their political stands, particularly against colonialism in South Africa.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER TO MEDIATE HAWAR ISLAND DISPUTE

GF181735 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 17 May 82 p 1

[Excerpt] AL-ANBA' has learned from reliable and informed sources that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal will go to Qatar and Bahrain on Tuesday and Wednesday [18 and 19 May] to talk with officials in both countries in an attempt to resolve the problem of Hawar, the disputed island between the two countries. The sources said speeding up the mediation was agreed upon during the GCC foreign ministers emergency meeting held in Kuwait on Saturday. It is necessary to resolve the problem so it will not become an obstacle to progress and the development of cooperation among the council's states.

Returns Home, Meets Officials

LD191626 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1502 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Riyadh, 19 May (SPA) -- Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal returned to Riyadh this afternoon from Doha at the end of his visit to Bahrain and Qatar during which he delivered two letters from His Majesty King Khalid to the amir of Bahrain and the amir of Qatar.

His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal met this afternoon with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Baker, who is currently visiting the kingdom. The meeting, which was attended by U.S. Ambassador Richard Murphy, dealt with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

RADIO WARNS IRAN NOT TO THREATEN GCC STATES

LD201030 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 May 82

[Hashim Abdu Hashim commentary]

[Excerpt] What is happening with Iran at present is a new, dangerous type of aggressive thinking, which we believe is a sinister extension of the line of thinking of the leaders of Iran and its [words indistinct].

This is no longer something new for the region. What is new, however, is for Iranian rulers to expose their ambitions and resort to an open, clear and complete threat against GCC member countries, particularly Kuwait, for seeking practical steps to end the Iraq-Iran war. [Words indistinct] have disturbed the Iranian rulers, who do not want the war to end their dreams to fade or their regime to disappear. [passage indistinct]

The Iranian rulers are commiting a grave error against themselves and their country if they believe the GCC member countries will (?fear) them, or that their attitude will be negative, or that they will wait for them to start implementing their threats. The Gulf countries respect their pledges and realize the meaning of true cooperation. They know the meaning of collective responsibility when a GCC member is threatened.

In view of this, the Gulf countries warn Iran against the consequences of taking any step. They also warn it that any step of this kind will cost them dearly.

At the same time, we hope the Arabs will realize that GCC member countries constitute a new model within the framework of the Arab fold, governed by the Arab collective defense pact. If these countries are true in their Arab attitudes, they must rise up to the level of commitment and pledge and do something to manifest this.

Even without such an Arab collective commitment, the Gulf countries have reached an excellent level of military coordination that enables them to teach any oppressive power a lesson it will never forget.

However, we stress the need for reason, wisdom, logic and self-respect by all parties. Otherwise, we will not shrink from exercising our full responsibility.

UAE

PRESIDENT ON ARAB SOLIDARITY, IRAN-IRAQ WAR

GF191840 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 17 May 82 p 1

[Statement by UAE President Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to AL-MADINAH newspaper -- place and date not given]

[Text] His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has said the UAE will exert maximum efforts to reestablish Arab solidarity and put an end to the Gulf war. In an exclusive statement to AL-MADINAH newspaper, Shaykh Zayid said it is time for a unified Arab stance, especially during the Zionist attacks on the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. His highness added that he will visit a number of Arab states in the near future for this purpose. With regard to the Gulf war, his highness expressed his extreme satisfaction over the results of the initial contacts with the Iraqi and Iranian sides. He said: The Iranian foreign minister visited us, and we held cordial and useful talks with him. The next few days will witness intensive contacts to put an end to Muslim bloodshed.

Shaykh Zayid stressed the necessity for Arab contacts in this stage to reestablish Arab solidarity. On the other hand, it has been learned in Tunisia that the Arab League has started intensive contacts with Arab states to prevent Arab relations from deteriorating. A reliable official source has informed KUNA that Arab League Assistant Secretary General Muhammad al-Farrah will leave for Kuwait to study the latest developments in the Arab arena and liquidate Arab differences. Shaykh Zayid said Al-Farrah's talks with Kuwaiti officials will also deal with coordination with the GCC on the one hand and the Arab League on the other to contain differences and bring about a unified Arab stance to strengthen Arab solidarity and remedy developments in the region as a whole.

GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

GF180936 Doha QNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 18 May 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 May (QNA) -- UAE Interior Ministry Under Secretary Col Khalfan Khamis has said the Interior Ministry is currently implementing a plan to build up the border guards and coast guards so they will play an effective role in patrolling the coast and preventing infiltration or illegal immigration.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published today, Colonel Khamis said expatriate labor and the way of dealing with this matter has been examined. He stressed the need for strengthening efforts by all departments concerned, as well as the private sector and citizens, in order to enforce the labor law, resolve problems involving expatriate labor and organize this issue so as to ensure the success of development plans.

The Interior Ministry under secretary is currently studying a proposal to prevent the departure of any expatriate prior to the approval of his sponsor -- whether the sponsor is an official department or a private citizen. He said this will eliminate many problems, particularly theft and embezzlement.

AL-ITTIHAD also reports on the threat Asian labor poses to UAE society. Citing official sources, Al-ITTIHAD says 80 percent of domestic servants suffer from tuberculosis, parasitical and venereal diseases and leprosy. Ninety percent of violent and immoral crimes are committed by expatriates.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD INTERVIEWED BY BEIRUT PAPER

EA181826 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 May 82

["Text" of interview with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Presidium and Council of Ministers, published in Beirut BEIRUTUL MASSA in Arabic on 8 May 1982 -- read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] There have been reports for some time now about meetings between the two parts of Yemen to establish normal relations between them and on mediation efforts on the same subject. There have also been reports on a summit meeting between the presidents of the two parts and of preparations for it. Can you tell us something about this?

[Answer] We are fully aware that the outbreak of tension between the two parts of Yemen does not serve the interest of Yemeni unity to the same extent as it serves their enemies who are used to trading in the blood of the Yemenis. To deny the enemies any opportunities, the two parts have undertaken extensive coordination activities and have exchanged views on issues of interest to the Yemeni people. I have proposed to Brother 'Ali Abdullah Salih that we convene the Yemeni Council as provided for by the Yemeni agreement. Preparations are currently going on to convene the Yemeni Council secretariat in the near future.

It will prepare an agenda for the meeting of the Yemeni Council whose members are the presidents of the two parts of Yemen. We hope the meeting will be held, will have new and more positive results for the benefit of subsequent unity work and will serve the aspirations of our people for unity, stability, progress and prosperity.

[Question] Your country has been subjected to an extensive conspiracy campaign, including from the military bases and facilities of U.S. imperialism and the recent sabotage network. Is it possible to talk about the manifestations of the conspiracy against your country, its aims and your assessment of how to combat it?

[Answer] Since we gained our independence from British colonialism we have been subjected to a series of conspiracies and sabotage. Imperialist and extreme reactionary circles have used various conspiratorial methods indicative of their hostility to our people and revolution. This is clear from the media campaigns, antirevolutionary activity and the imposition of the economic and political blockade of our country. When all that failed they resorted to mobilizing mercenaries, opening camps to train them, financing them and sending them to perpetrate acts of sabotage. All these methods adopted in the past by hostile forces in their undeclared and unjust war against our people failed.

Contrary to the aims of these forces, our people's links with the party have grown in strength and the masses have rallied to their revolutionary leadership. They have realized the nature and goals of activities against the country and the wicked intentions behind them.

Recently these forces, under CIA supervision, have resorted to new methods in their sabotage activities. The least that can be said about this is that these are terrorist actions which no one would embark upon unless he was devoid of conscience, humanity and honor. For many months they have been preparing terrorist groups to destroy economic installations in populated areas. Were it not for the vigilance of our people and our security organs with regard to that criminal act, a bloody catastrophe would have ensued, leading to thousands of victims apart from the other economic and social losses.

We possess important and serious information, which we have not disclosed until now, concerning the goals of the hostile activities, those taking part in them, those who supervised their implementation and the objectives they wanted to reach. There are now further activities by the hostile forces in the same direction but we are monitoring them.

In our assessment some reactionary circles which have allowed themselves to be pliable tools in the hands of U.S. imperialism will be making a big mistake if they continue their hostile course against our people. Previous events have demonstrated the futility and failure of that course. They have confirmed the importance of upholding the principles of peaceful coexistence in relations between states, regardless of their different social systems. (?the spirit) of the age is with this course.

We have unlimited confidence that, just as we triumphed over the conspiracies and acts of sabotage throughout the past, we shall also remain steadfast and resist, with all determination and with the spirit of self-defense, any new hostile activites.

[Question] What is your view of the efforts to bring the Egyptian regime into so-called Arab solidarity?

[Answer] The return of Egypt to the Arab ranks or its nonreturn -- this is a question that is not to be determined by us. It is not subject to the desires of anyone. We see no benefit to the Arab peoples in Egypt's continuing isolation from the Arab ranks.

On the other hand, we must not underestimate the dangers to Egypt resulting from the Camp David accords as well as to the cause of the Palestinian people and other Arab peoples. For this reason we consider the honorable return of Egypt to the Arab ranks to be linked to its complete abandonment of the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and its consequences and the adoption by Egypt of bold and courageous stands against U.S. imperialism and Zionism before joining the Arab peoples.

[Question] You have been trying for some time to convene a summit of the countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. What has become of those efforts? What changes do you believe the front should make?

[Answer] There have been contacts between the members of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. There have been consultations among its members at the foreign ministers level on the holding of a front summit. We have now reached a joint agreement on the holding of a conference the end of April.

However, the preoccupations of a number of the front's leaders and the exceptional circumstances of other front states prevented the continuation of consultations to prepare the summit. It is my view that there are new developments and important events which require the convening of the summit to enable us to study the Arab situation in a critical manner in order to reach a common standpoint on the vital issues which will be on the agenda of the conference.

[Question] What do you think are the main tasks that must be shouldered by the revolutionary forces in the Arab liberation movement so that is can be revived?

[Answer] I believe the Arab liberation movement will not face more difficult conditions than those it is experiencing today. The Arab liberation movement has experienced difficulties and failures in its struggle, which is basically tied to its own and other conditions resulting from temporary changes in the international situation. But this does not mean those difficulties and failures should determine the nature of the national liberation movement.

There is a positive development in the activity and methods of the struggle of the national liberation movement, both on the local and pan-Arab levels. I believe it is time to review this in detail. Despite all this, we should evaluate our experience [word indistinct], in my opinion, and benefit from it in order to help us know the weak points and find solutions to them, as well as define the positive factors in our circumstances with a great responsibility. We should follow new methods and styles of development.

Perhaps the most important of the vital issues in this connection is that which relates to the stand on alliances of various fronts on the local level as well as the development of cooperation and coordination between groups and factions of the Arab national liberation movement in all their political and ideological affiliations. This is aimed at achieving a joint understanding of the importance of establishing principled and strategic relations of cooperation with factions of the international revolutionary movement, which possesses enough strength to support our struggle, and to demonstrate solidarity with the struggle of our Arab peoples. If this is not accomplished then we are likely to encounter other failures. This means the reactionary forces will find the proper atmosphere for expanding their hostile activities against the Arab national liberation movement.

[Question] What is your view of the Iraq-Iran war and its outcome?

[Answer] From the beginning of the war our view was that it does not serve the interests of the peoples of Iraq or Iran. It will only create conditions of instability and insecurity for the peoples of the region and prepare the ground for U.S. intervention in the region with the pretext of preserving -- as was said before and after the setting up of the rapid intervention force -- the vital interests of the United States and its allies in the West. For this reason it became necessary to define our position in terms of [word indistinct] and principle with regard to that war. Our position was reflected in our demands to stop the war and not to encourage anyone to continue it.

[Question] What is your view of the existing situation in Lebanon? How do you assess the course of the current conflict there?

[Answer] What can I tell you about Lebanon when everything has already been said about it? The people who are suffering from the bitterness and agony of Zionist aggression are no longer in need of verbal (?protection). The Lebanese people who have to support the barbarous aggression are growing in strength and steadfastness in the face of that aggression. They are becoming more convinced of the importance of a strong alliance with the Palestinian revolution. They have become conscious of the coarseness to which imperialist and reactionary circles can descend to justify the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution.

What disgusts us is that in spite of the barbarous acts being committed by Israel in destroying the Lebanese people and the Palestinian refugee camps and in spite of the support Israel enjoys in international forums from the United States, we still see the United States presence politically and economically in many Arab countries whose regimes shed crocodile tears for the Lebanese cause and for Lebanon's territorial integrity. What is worse, we see some regimes opening up their countries to U.S. bases to help the United States expand its influence, hegemony and humiliation of the Arab peoples.

We in Democratic Yemen have adopted a clear stand toward the United States. The pressures exerted on us by imperialism and reaction cannot turn us away from a policy opposed to imperialism and Zionism and in support of our Arab peoples, including the fraternal Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Whatever Lebanon asks of us to strengthen its steadfastness, we shall not hesitate for a moment in our response.

That was the interview published by the Lebanese BAYRUTUL MASSA AL-MASA on 8 May and published today [17 May] by 14 OCTOBER.

YAR

GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS ISRAELI-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS

JN191515 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The YAR has called for a serious Arab action to thwart the Zionist infiltration of the African Continent and has demanded a quick implementation of the Arab summit resolutions concerning political and economic boycott of those states that resume relations with Israel or transfer their embassies to occupied Jerusalem. This came in a statement to the SABA' news agency by a responsible Foreign Ministry source who was commenting on Zaire's decision to restore relations with Israel and the transfer of the embassies of Zaire and Costa Rica to occupied Jerusalem.

The source said the YAR Government views with concern and displeasure Zaire's decision to resume relations with the Zionist entity. The Foreign Ministry denounces and deplores this hostile act, which is a violation of the African summit resolutions of 1977 and all OAU resolutions. The YAR Government considers this decision a grave encroachment on Arab-African solidarity and Arab-African relations.

The source expressed the YAR's denunciation and condemnation of the decisions of Zaire and Costa Rica to transfer their embassies to occupied Jerusalem and affirmed that these decisions are a violation of the international resolutions on the status of Jerusalem issued by the UN General Assembly and other international forums, and a clear flouting of international law.

MUBARAK, ADVISERS DISCUSS FOREIGN POLICY

NC191104 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA) — MENA has learned that President Husni Mubarak today discussed with several senior advisers subjects related to foreign policy in light of current international political changes.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Chief of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs, Dr Usamah al-Baz.

'ALI INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH ARAB NATIONS

NC191558 Cairo MENA in English 1255 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] London, 19 May (MENA) — Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali was quoted here today as stressing that it is natural for Egypt as an Arab country to have normal relations with the Arabs, adding that he is confident in the restoration of Arab solidarity.

However, he pointed out that the re-establishment of solidarity is contingent mostly on the wish of any Arab country to cooperate with Egypt, which on her part by no means closes the door before such attempts.

Interviewed by the London-based Arabic-language daily ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 'Ali disclosed that some Arab-countries are willing to make mediation in this connection. He named Oman and the Sudan. The Sudan heads the Arab group that comprises the Arab solidarity committee, he said.

About Egypt's relations with the Arabs on the one hand and her relations with Israel, on the other, 'Ali stressed that Egypt's stance on fateful Arab issues has always been candid and clear-cut, therefore there is no difference over and no comparison whatsoever between Egypt's ties with Israel and her ties within the Arab countries.

Elaborating, the foreign minister said that Egypt expressed its principled standpoints on several occasions, despite the fact that its territory had been occupied at the time. He cited as examples in this connection Egypt's stances on the bombardment of Iraqi nuclear reactors, Israeli practices in the West Bank, the settlements issue and the endeavours to stop attacks against Lebanon.

Egypt calls for a prompt end to the Iraq-Iran war, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egypt's deputy premier and foreign minister, told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT of today.

He reiterated Egypt's concern over the continuation of that war as this clashes with the interests of both countries. He underlined the need to stem bloodshed between the Moslems.

Egypt, he said, views Gulf states as a first strategic defence line for her and considers the security of these countries as intergral with her own.

While he confirms that Egypt is providing Iraq with ammunition he recalls her stand besides Kuwait when her main independence was threatened from adjacent moves and vis-a-vis Afghanistan after the Soviet occupation.

Asked if Egypt has the intention to get back the Arab League in Cairo, Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt deems it that the Arab League is still in Cairo. Anyhow, he said, the issue requires reevaluation.

He emphasized it that Egypt is not expected under the present circumstances to attend meetings where diatribes recur.

Before Arab states can establish a sort of alliance with Egypt, it is required first to remove that polarisation as one witnesses in the Iraq-Iran conflict with several Arab countries taking this side and the others that other side.

Another prerequisite put by 'Ali was the abrogation of the Baghdad resolutions and other such stands that were taken against Egypt in international gatherings. These resolutions and their manifestations are to be liquidated before setting out on any other step because any meeting to be held in the light of such concepts will lead to nothing.

Asked what Egypt could do in case Iran defeated Iraq, Kamal Hasan 'Ali answered "Egypt can give Iraq a lot of assistance if it requests, this would be in return to Iraqi assistance to Egypt with arms in the October war of 1973, and today we are returning the favour."

In answer to another question, the Egyptian foreign minister denied that the American contingent to the multi-lateral peace-keeping force in Sinai would have an relationship with the American Rapid Deployment Forces in the Middle East. He added that the contingent was only 600 strong, stationed in a small area at Tiran Straits in south Sinai.

IRANIAN INTENTIONS TOWARD ARABS VIEWED

NC191752 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 May 82

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "Iran Reveals Its Intentions Against the Security and Stability of the Arab East"]

[Text] Even before Iranian forces captured the city of Khorramshahr, 15 km from the international border with Iraq, many threats had been made in Tehran to invade Iraqi territory and punish the Gulf states for supporting Iraq. The Iranian religious leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, has warned the Gulf states that they will fall into the same trap with Iraq. His prime minister, Hoseyn Musavi, did not rule out the possibility of Iranian forces entering Iraqi territory, as reported by AFP. Moreover, the Iranian prime minister addressed a direct threat to Kuwait, that its support of Iraq will have adverse effects on Kuwait itself. Musavi goes on to say that the expansion of the scope of the war does not frighten the Iranian revolution, but rather it will be in favor of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the whole world.

These statements contain two extremely grave threats. First, these statements reveal that Iran is prepared and does not lack the intention of advancing into Iraqi territory. The objective, as Musavi declared, is to topple President Saddam Husayn, because peace, as he put it, will not return to the area while Iraqi President Saddam Husayn exists. These statements also reveal that Iran has the intention and readiness for armed intervention in the affairs of the Gulf states on the pretext that they support Iraq.

Second, these statements by senior Iranian officials confirm the worst fears of the Gulf states — that Iran is serious about its plan to export the so-called Islamic revolution. Since the Iranian-style Islamic revolution is rejected in the Gulf states, this plan involves a direct threat to the Arabism and independence of the Gulf states.

If the Iranian prime minister thinks that expanding the scope of the war will be in favor of what he calls the Islamic revolution in the whole world, then it is correct to say that the Gulf states have a legitimate right to support Iraq, because the Iraqi-Iranian war was partly a preventive war against the plan to export the revolution and to undermine stability in the Gulf and the whole Arab East.

Perhaps the dimensions of the danger inherent in the Iranian position appears complete to us if we realize that Iraq, by the testimony of the Islamic and nonaligned mediation committees, displayed a large degree of flexibility to settle its differences with Iran. However, the Tehran rulers are the ones who refuse to end the war, putting forward an arbitrary condition -- the removal of the Iraqi president -- as if Iraq must become an Iranian protectorate. This is at a time when the declared objective of Iraq in this war is to regain its sovereignty over the Shatt al-'Arab.

It is no secret to the Iranian rulers that Iraq gave up this sovereignty unwillingly as a price for the former shah's relinquishment of his support for the Kurdish separatist movement in Iraq.

AL-AHRAM ON CONSEQUENCES OF IRAQ LOSING WAR

PM191357 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 May 82 pp 1, 3

[Chief editor Ibrahim 'Nafi' article: "Blood in the Gulf"]

[Excerpts] As the Gulf war is entering its last critical stages and as it is possible that it will soon end in a manner contrary to what many expected, it is incumbent upon us now to pause in the midst of the flurry of alarming news from the battlefield in order to consider the results of this war, which Egypt has condemned since the first bullet was fired, and to ask ourselves: What is to be done?

From the beginning, Egypt's view was that this "unholy war" involved great risks for both sides engaged in it, namely, an Arab state and an Islamic state. Regardless of who the winner is, the war also spells danger for an area vital to the whole world, not just to the Arab world: namely, the Gulf region.

Egypt's view was that it is a war with no cause or reason. Iraq, for example, was not the target of a direct attack by Iran justifying raising armies and throwing them into crushing battles that exhaust resources and wealth, adversely affect the Arab strength and open the gates of the region to foreign intervention forces that help both sides either with arms or political support in order to keep the war flames alight.

Egypt also believed that this war distracts attention from the number one cause, for the sake of which Egypt fought great battles of war and peace -- namely, the Palestine problem -- because continuation of the fighting will undoubtedly weaken world opinion's interest in the basic problem and lend credence to the claim Israeli leaders have been trying to convince world decisionmakers of for 10 years: namely, that the Arab-Israeli conflict is not the source of the danger in the area nor is it the principal danger threatening stability there and, therefore, there is no justification for world leaders seeking an end to this danger by recognizing the Palestinian people's rights and imposing peace.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's dream when he took the decision to wage war was to achieve resounding victories against Iran, which was collapsing because of chaos. The roaring of the former "lion of the area," whose voice sent shudders of fear through some neighboring countries, paved the way for him to occupy Iran's former position of being the strongest military power in the area and opened the door to Gulf leadership as a step on the rosy path of leadership of the whole Middle East.

It is no secret that Saddam Husayn informed Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states of his intention to fight the lion of Khosrow only 3 days before the outbreak of fighting. He informed the Gulf leaders that the aim of the war was to topple Khomeyni's regime in order to eliminate the "Persian" danger threatening these countries. He told them that the military battle would last no more than 10 days, after which Khomeyni's regime would collapse, Iraq would achieve its objectives and stability would once again be restored to the area.

When the balance of war in the Iranian battlefield tipped against Iraq and dire consequences loomed on the horizon, Egypt shifted from a position of condemning and rejecting the war to one of positively supporting Iraq in its battle with Iran.

There were important factors and reasons behind Egypt's attitude. These are:

The consequences of the military balance tipping in favor of Iran, if no efforts were made to support Iraq, would extend beyond Iraq itself to the neighboring Gulf countries, which is something that Egypt is trying by all means to avert in order to preserve Iraq's security, the Gulf states' security and Arab security in general.

The continuing Iranian military pressure and its success would encourage the pro-Iranian terrorist groups to carry out sabotage operations undermining the safety and security of the Gulf states, as happened in the case of the Iranian conspiracy to overthrow the regime in Bahrain and the attack on the Mecca mosque, where investigations revealed that the majority of the leaders of the attack were pro-Iranian Shi'ites.

Iran's victory and Iraq's defeat in this war would result in the creation of a pro-Iran Shi'ite belt dividing the body of the Arab nation, extending from Iran to Iraq, to 'Alawite Syria and to Shi'ite southern Lebanon. This is the belt of which the Iranian leadership dreams and which we reject on the basis of the principle of the need not to deepen conflict between the Shi'ites and the Sunnis and the principle that Islam rejects the idea of religious authority and is against it just as we reject the idea of convening a conference for the Sunni Islamic states, for which some people are now calling following the developments of this war, in order to confront this expected danger.

In addition to these factors, Iraq for its part has shown a readiness to reach a peaceful settlement of the war and has proposed conditions which Egypt finds suitable. These include the principle of withdrawal to international borders and establishment of Islamic Conference committee to discuss the question of the three Arab islands occupied by Iran and determine which party began the aggression. This could be regarded as a clear framework for peace between Iraq and Iran, but Iran turned it down.

Now, after the Iraq-Iran battlefield has witnessed grave developments not in favor of Iraq, we have suddenly come face to face with an extremely important and serious question, namely: What shall we do if Iran crosses the Iraqi borders?

The immediate answer to this question is that all the Arab countries, including Egypt, would be requested not to stand idly by in the face of such a grave situation because the entry of Iranian forces into Iraq -- should it happen -- would lead not only to the collapse of Iraq but also to the downfall of the Gulf states one after the other as a result of either military operations, threats to them or Iranian-backed sabotage operations inside the country. In addition, a victorious and advancing Iran -- should such a serious development occur -- would not be satisfied with claiming the costs of the war from Iraq alone or, in this case also, be content with demanding war reparations and the cost of rebuilding, but would also claim such costs from the Arab countries that have helped Iraq materially and militarily and seek to topple their political regimes.

In view of these dangers and reasons it has now become necessary to submit a balanced Arab peace plan, in which Egypt and the Arab countries would participate, which would bring about a cease-fire and return to international borders and also ensure Arab rights on the three islands and lay down the framework for solving outstanding border problems between Iraq and Iran.

In addition, it should ensure that Iran would not interfere in the affairs of neighboring Arab countries, export its revolution abroad, carry out sabotage operations in the area or incite chauvinism and conflicts between the Shi'ites and the Sunnis, in order to protect the unity of Islam and the Muslims.

Egypt would welcome and encourage such effort with all its resources and would back them with all its weight out of a desire to preserve Arab strategic security. In so doing it would disregard many considerations.

It would disregard, for example, the procedural question of whether the Arabs would return to Egypt or Egypt would return to the Arabs. It would also disregard what is being said about the need for a formula to rescind the Baghdad summit resolutions [on boycotting Egypt].

Egypt did not wait for such a measure to be taken before supporting Iraq and its president in the capital of whose country and with whose support and encouragement these resolutions were adopted. Egypt did this on the grounds that this is a matter of Arab strategic security having nothing to do with the Camp David agreements.

Egypt has also disregarded the deliberate misunderstanding on the basis of which the Baghdad summit resolutions were adopted -- that Egypt has concluded a separate peace with Israel. Now that Egypt has retrieved all its territories it is not washing its hands of the Palestine problem and has never ceased to make efforts to find a solution that is acceptable to the Palestinians and which will alleviate their hardships.

This is not the place to ask what the Arabs have done for the Palestine problem other than holding extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly to discuss the problem.

Nor is this the time to ask about the amounts the Arabs have spent on the Palestine problem in the past few years at a time when they have generously spent $38 billion on the Iraq-Iran war, a war without cause or reason which we could have done without.

This is not the time to ask about all this because the Baghdad summit resolutions have, in our view, become practically invalid with the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the liberation of Egyptian territory while we have adhered to our principled stand of continuing efforts to find a just solution for the Palestine problem. Moreover, Egypt has not asked nor will it ask anybody to return to it. Rather it leaves every Arab country the freedom to choose the time it finds suitable for its return to Egypt without embarrassment or sensitivities.

As for Egypt, it always welcomes any relations with its Arab brothers as long as they are unconditional. It has more than once announced that its doors are open to whoever wants to come, that the Arab League still exists in Cairo and that its banners are still aloft.

In this respect we cannot disregard what two Arab states have done during the Iraq-Iran conflict now threatening all Arab security. For the first time two Arab members of the Arab League and signatories of the Arab collective security pact -- namely, Syria and Libya -- have contributed to the war efforts of a country fighting an Arab country and seeking to inflict military defeat on it. This is a strange attitude which constitutes a blatant violation of the Arab collective security pact. What is strage indeed is that in their effort Syria and Libya are joined by Israel and some Eastern states giving military and material support to Iran in its war against Arab Iraq, which is a member of the Arab League and the collective security pact.

Syria's odd attitude toward Iraq cannot be justified by the chronic disputes between the two wings of Ba'th Party that rule Syria and Iraq, nor certainly by the personal animosity between Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn.

It definitely cannot be justified by Syria's illogical wishes that Saddam Husayn's regime in Iraq will fall and that it will be replaced by a new Iraqi regime friendly to Syria. Whatever regime rules it Iraq will not forgive the Syrian regime for stabbing it in the back while fighting Iran nor from stopping oil being pumped through Syrian territory to the Mediterranean when Iraq was in need of the revenue from every drop of its oil.

Also, the Gulf states will not forgive Syria for supporting the efforts of a state which represents many dangers to them. These are countries that pay Syria $1.5 billion a year in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions in addition to other aid decided at the Rabat summit.

Would it be beneficial here to remind some of the Arab countries of their responsibilities toward the danger that is coming from the Gulf? Would it be beneficial here to draw attention to the need to close ranks, unify efforts and devote capabilities to confronting dangers which the Gulf war developments are now indicating?

ABU GHAZALAH OPENS AFRICAN MILITARY SEMINAR

NC171608 Cairo MENA in English 1535 GMT 17 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA) — Defense and War Production Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah inaugurated today the second African scientific military seminar. Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Shura [Consultative] Council speaker, and Dr Butrus Ghali, state minister for foreign affairs, attended.

Marshal Abu Ghazalah pointed out in an inaugural speech that this seminar helps create a clear and right concept of African security, which is related to Arab and Egyptian security.

Afro-Arab cooperation within the security field is one of the important national objectives of the African and Arab countries, he added.

Delegations from 13 African states, including Egypt, are participating in the four-day seminar.

MUBARAK RECEIVES AFRICAN ENVOYS, EXPLAINS POLICY

NC191816 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning received the African delegations taking part in the African military seminar.

Lt Gen 'Abd Rab an-Nabi Hafiz, the chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, stated that Egypt holds these seminars to link Egyptian militarism with African militarism. He said that the president explained to the delegations Egypt's position on the Middle East issue and answered inquiries by members of the delegations.

He said that the seminar will end tomorrow. The seminar discussed three main subjects: African security, the threats against Africa and the refugee problem.

SEMINAR SEEN AS TURNING POINT IN AFRICAN POLICY

NC181540 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 May 82

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "Egypt's African Affiliation Witnesses a New Activity in Constructive Work"]

[Text] While Egypt's Arab affiliation constitutes a basic pillar in Egyptian strategy, Egypt's link with Africa and its African affiliation occupies the same and no less a place in this strategy. The second African military seminar is currently being held in Cairo and is being attended by delegations representing many African states. A number of leading military strategists and senior diplomats are taking part.

The seminar is meeting to study the most important problems the continent is still facing and to discuss the best ways to tackle them. Naturally, some of the leading problems facing the African Continent are the threats to African national security, the problem of refugees and the use of mercenaries and the danger this constitutes to the security and stability of the continent's states.

Egypt's position, which is clear and known, is the absolute rejection of interference in the affairs of others. Egyptian policy abides by this principles. This does not mean nonparticipation or noncontribution to the solution of any problem which may face any African state. Egypt participates within the framework of an African action by the African community to stop the deterioration of a situation here or there.

This has been clearly evident in some of the crises which have faced the continent, such as the Chad crisis and differences of opinion which occurred at the recent OAU meetings on some issues. At the same time, Egypt spares no effort to provide its expertise, contribution and support.

It also participates in every African effort in accordance with the basic principles of its policy, which is based on noninterference in the internal affairs of any state and leaving the people of each country to work together to solve any internal problem. Egypt's policy is also based on the principle of not resorting to the use of force in solving any dispute between two neighbors and calling for the adoption of the method of dialogue and understanding to achieve agreement. This is based on its belief that the biggest problems can be solved through negotiations and direct contacts.

The meeting of the second African military seminar in Cairo to discuss and study some of the problems the continent inherited and to try to find solutions to them constitutes a new turning point in Egypt's role in African action. Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah very clearly affirmed at the seminar that Egypt does not interfere in disputes between states and that there are no Egyptian soldiers working outside Egypt. At the same time, he announced that there are Egyptian experts and advisers in fraternal countries, like Sudan and Somalia, who provide assistance, expertise and advice. We view the present Cairo meeting as a serious step on the way of drawing up positive and constructive lines to spare the African states the woes of problems and pain from which some of these states are still suffering today.

GHALI DEPARTS FOR TALKS IN PORTUGAL, BELGIUM

NC200706 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali left Cairo today beginning a 1-week tour to Portugal and Belgium.

Before leaving, Dr Ghali said that during his official visit to Portugal he will deliver a written message from President Husni Mubarak to Portuguese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes and will hold discussions on bilateral relations.

He said that during his visit to Brussels he will deliver a similar message to King Baudouin of Belgium from President Husni Mubarak and will hold discussions with the Belgian Government on activating relations between the two countries, particularly in economic and trade fields.

SOURCE SAYS CURRENT BATTLES MAY BE LAST

PM190937 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 14 May 82 p 1

['Abd Ar-Rahman Idris report]

[Excerpts] Jidda -- In an exclusive statement to AL-JAZIRAH, a responsible Iraqi source has stated there are several indications that the current battles with Iran will be decisive and may be the last battles between the Iraqi and Iranian forces.

Explaining what he said, the Iraqi source pointed out that Iran has risked all its military capabilities and thrown its best regular forces into the battle. Military observers believe that after this Iran will not be able to continue the war and will have no alternative but to respond to the calls for a peaceful settlement.

The source said that in its latest attempt to regain Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] and penetrate the Iraqi border, Iran mobilized all its regular forces and national guard, in addition to volunteers and children 9-12 years old. Iraq, he added, inflicted grave losses of life and equipment on the Iranians -- over 30,000 men, hundreds of tanks, more than 20 fighter planes and very large quantities of other military hardware.

The Iranians, he maintained, have failed miserably in their attacks.

Discussing the Iraqi position, the Iraqi official told Al-JAZIRAH that Iraq has been applying its known tactics of withdrawing to more suitable positions in order to be able to inflict the heaviest losses on the enemy.

ALIF BA' CLAIMS 35,793 IRANIANS KILLED SINCE 30 APR

JN191433 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 19 May 82

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 19 May (INA) -- The weekly ALIF BA' magazine reports there will be many developments in the Iranian arena in the next few weeks which will have an impact on the battlefront.

The magazine explains that since 30 April the Iranian enemy has lost 35,793 soldiers and 480 tanks and 31 planes were destroyed. The magazine adds these losses cannot be compensated for and it adds the Iranian regime might be able to compensate for the losses in military hardware left by the shah, supplied by the Zionist entity or other international parties with the full knowledge and approval of the United States, but it would be difficult to make up for the losses in pilots, officers, and technicians.

COMMANDER, PAPERS COMMENT ON 19 MAY OFFENSIVE

JN200902 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0714 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA) -- The commander of the Muhammad al-Qasim forces has disclosed that the Iranian enemy has pulled back its armor from the frontlines west of the Karun and north of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr].

In a statement published in ATH-THAWRAH today, the commander said the Iranian enemy was forced to take this action under the great impact of the Iraqi armored forces on the battlefield.

The commander pointed out yesterday's Iraqi offensive was aimed at destroying enemy forces and dealing them a crippling blow so they will not be able to continue their aggression. The Iraqi forces have succeeded in achieving this objective, he said.

The commander said the attacking Iraqi forces clashed with the enemy forces, which were composed of armored, infantry and volunteer units and backed by all types of field weapons, at several points on the frontline and also on the flanks. The Iraqi forces, he stressed, succeeded after heroic fighting, in driving the enemy away from the positions, where it tried to maintain contact with our forces. The Iraqi forces, he added, fulfilled their duties through splendid coordination and achieved the objectives set for them by the supreme command and the field commanders.

The commander asserted the Iraqi armored forces which took part in the offensive came down on the enemy with heavy blows and established their superiority right from the first moment. He said cries of help from the enemy units and concentrations under attack were unusually clear. Iranian soldiers seemed completely helpless before our heroic fighters in recent battles, he said.

In a dispatch by its correspondent in the southern sector, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says the Iraqi offensive inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and seized its front positions. The attacking Iraqi forces, the paper adds, succeeded in blocking enemy reinforcements and forcing them to retreat, leaving behind hundreds of dead and scores of damaged tanks and armored cars.

The Iraqi military spokesman had announced last night that the Iraqi offensive on enemy units north of Al-Muhammarah resulted in heavy enemy losses in lives and equipment amounting to 658 dead and the destruction of 18 tanks, 4 armored troop carriers and other military hardware.

In their comments, Iraqi papers today say the Iraqi forces will continue their offensives until the arrogant Iranian enemy comes to his senses. AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The presence of our forces here or there depends on the exigencies of deployment and security. ATH-THAWRAH says: The Iraqi blitzkrieg yesterday clearly means that our triumphant forces are more determined to achieve final and decisive victory over the Iranian enemy. These forces are getting tougher and their morale is growing higher with time despite months and years of fighting.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ says yesterday's Iraqi offensive means that Iraqi withdrawals from certain positions on the front are based on Iraqi decisions and for tactical reasons. Such withdrawals show clear flexibility in moving our military units all along the front and in determining the times and places of battles with the view to completely destroying and crushing the Iranian war machine, the paper concludes.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 716

JN191724 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA) -- The Iraqi forces have inflicted heavy losses in life and equipment on the Iranian forces north of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] and west of the Karun River.

A communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening reports the eagles of the Iraqi Air Force carried out fierce raids on the Iranian enemy's positions, scoring direct hits and destroying a large number of its tanks and equipment. The communique adds walls of flame were seen and explosions were heard from the Iranian forces' positions and all the Iraqi fighter planes returned safely to base.

The following is the text of Communique No 716 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Iraq will remain proud, dignified and strong through its victories and its just principles and its courageous and honorable sons will continue their inexhaustible offerings on the road to justice, dignity and glory in their fight against the forces of aggression and oppression while continuing to have the initiative and the spirit of victory. They will also destroy the rancorous Khomeyni clique, its evil dreams and its arrogance and will inflict heavy losses in life and equipment on its forces until they recognize its true border and respect the rights of Iraq and the Arab nation. The results of the activities on the front for last night and today are as follows:

The Muhammad al-Qasim and Usamah forces and part of the Sa'd forces this morning launched a daring attack on the enemy forces north of the Al-Muhammarah area with the objective of destroying them. The Iraqi forces inflicted heavy losses in life and equipment on the enemy forces and returned after having carried out their mission as planned. We shall give you details of the losses of the enemy and our sacrifices in subsequent communiques. At the same time, the courageous eagles of our air force completed their control of the battle skies and all today raided enemy positions and concentrations north of Al-Muhammarah and west of the Karun River, scoring direct and effective hits and destroying a large number of enemy tanks, equipment and concentrations. Our ground units heard explosions and saw walls of fire rising from the enemy targets. All our planes returned safely to base.

A total of 137 combat missions were carried out today and our helicopters carried out daring and successful raids today against enemy units and concentrations, scoring direct and accurate hits and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's tanks and equipment. All our helicopters returned safely to base.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 May 1982

Details of Iranian Losses

JN192010 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA) -- The Iranian forces north of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] sustained 658 killed and 18 tanks, 4 personnel carriers, 3 guns, 12 vehicles and 5 rocket launchers destroyed. An Iraqi military spokesman here tonight stated the Iranian forces also sustained heavy losses in weapons and various military hardware. The following is the text of the statement:

An Iraqi military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

We did them no wrong, but they were used to doing wrong to themselves. [Koranic verse] The known losses sustained by the Iranian enemy as a result of our valiant units' attack on its forces north of Al-Muhammarah this morning were as follows: 658 killed and 18 tanks, 4 personnel carriers, 3 guns, 12 vehicles, 3 of which were loaded with personnel, and 3 others loaded with 106-mm guns, 5 rocket launchers, 1 tubular launcher, 3 observation posts, 4 stockpiles of ammunition and 7 positions were destroyed. A large quantity of weapons and other military hardware of various types was also destroyed.

Our sacrifices amount to 25 martyrs and 6 tanks, 3 personnel carriers and 2 vehicles damaged.

IRAN'S ALLIANCE WITH IMPERIALISTS, ZIONISTS SCORED

NC192113 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 0600 GMT 19 May 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] All impartial political experts and observers in the world and all those who are aware of the game being played by the superpowers on an international level firmly believe the continuation of the war between the two neighboring and Muslim countires is a well calculated plot engineered by U.S. imperialism and Zionism. Khomeyni's Zionist regime is an agent of U.S. imperialism and world Zionism and it is pursuing this war and fanning its flames as imperialism and Zionism wish.

Fortunately, in veiw of the existence of pressure, repression and censorship in Iran, the daily executions and the imprisonment of more than 35,000 people, the people of the Middle East have realized the filthy and sly nature of Khomeyni's regime and have prepared themselves to confront this regime. Among the regional countries, Iraq was the one to resist the aggression and expansionism of Khomeyni's Zionist regime and to thwart Khomeyni's imperialist and Zionist plots.

But the East and the West, the superpowers and the Zionists consider Khomeyni's Zionist regime to be the best means for implementing their plans and plots which are nothing but the fomenting of chaos in the Middle East region and giving peace of mind to the occupiers of Jerusalem. This is why they assisted this regime by sending its arms and ammunition. Israel exported war materiel (?directly and indirectly) on a regular basis to Khomeyni's Zionist regime so it could continue the war with Iraq. This is because this regime does not agree to accept a just peace which will ensure the rights of both countries and help iron out the differences on the basis of peaceful talks. The imperialist powers only wish is for Khomeyni's Zionist regime to continue its war with Iraq and to intensify its aggression and expansionism.

The U.S. State Department has blatantly announced, repeatedly, that it supports Khomeyni's regime and it will not allow any group to weaken the bases of this regime. On the other hand, the occupiers of Jerusalem cannot deliver war materiel, aircraft and tanks to Khomeyni's regime without U.S. consent. During the past 20 months, in addition to sending millions of dollars worth of arms, ammunition and spare parts for tanks and Phantoms, the occupiers of Jerusalem have also sent their experts with forged passports to Iran so they can help Khomeyni's Zionist regime in the war against Iraq. It is not without calculation that the occupiers of Jerusalem bombed Iraq's nuclear installations in the heat of the war. It is not without calculation that they placed the Islamic Republic's emblem on their Phantom jets and sent them on missions over war zones in order to bomb Iraqi positions.

Can Khomeyni's Zionist regime claim it opposes the occupiers of Jerusalem or that it wants to liberate Jerusalem at a time when it is actually working to the benefit of Zionism and imperialism and is at war with Iraqi forces, which are the staunch enemies of the occupiers of Jerusalem, and at a time when by doing so it is granting peace of mind to the enemy Zionists as far as their eastern border is concerned? Why does Khomeyni's regime pursue a warmongering and expansionist policy toward regional Muslim countries and why doesn't it say, let us mobilize our forces and confront Zionism? Khomeyni is a deceitful liar and a disrespectful imposter who has clearly shown his face to the Iranian people and to the Muslims of the world.

The continuation of the war only benefits U.S. imperialism and Zionism. It is not without reason that both the United States and the occupying Zionists are assisting Khomeyni's regime. It is not without cause that they, coupled with reactionary countries which see benefits in assisting Khomeyni's Zionist regime, help it.

Why is it that in Iran all progressive parties and groups are banned from free activity and true revolutionary forces are silenced with machineguns while an affiliated party, which denies even the existence of God, is free to act as it wants? Its affiliated members are hiding under Khomeyni's and his associates' robes and they have turned Iran into a toy in the hands of imperialism.

Of course Khomeyni's black and Zionist regime should be supported by imperialism and Zionism because basically imperialism wants Iran to become more dependent. And who can help achieve this objective but the kaffir Muslim-killing mullahs who helped to turn Iran into the center for the implementation of the superpowers' imperialist plots? Can one rise against imperialism and Zionism merely by chanting empty slogans? Will such deceitful slogans basically affect the aggressive stance of imperialism and Zionism?

The point on which political experts of the world agree is that Khomeyni's regime is basically an offspring of imperialism and Zionism. As far as imperialism and Zionism are concerned the ideology of the regime that rules in Iran is not important. What is important for them is how their interests are ensured in the best way possible. And Khomeyni's Zionist regime has proven its subservience to imperialist and Zionist powers. It has proven that it is an ideal regime for the imperialists and Zionists.

So what if the bloodthirsty leaders of this regime voice slogans from their propaganda network? What is important for imperialism and Zionism is the result of the acts and stances of the Tehran regime. What better result can one achieve but to sell the arms amassed in depots at many times their price so that Khomeyni's regime can use these weapons both to continue the war against Iraq and to use them against domestic forces and to kill Iran's revolutionary youths with U.S. and Israeli arms?

U.S. imperialism is happy that Khomeyni's regime is crushing Iran's revolutionary, progressive and peaceloving forces in the country. The other superpowers too are happy that the way for their infiltration and domination of Iran and other regional countries is being further paved. The occupiers of Jerusalem too have found an opportunity and are overjoyed that the forces of Muslim Iraq are involved in defending their territory with the war that Khomeyni's regime has ignited. It is by using this opportunity that the aggressive forces of the occupiers of Jerusalem are bombing southern Lebanon and the deprived Palestinian combatants. They are happy to believe that the more involved the forces of the two Muslim countries of the region are in continuing the war the more this will be to their benefit.

We thus realize why Khomeyni's regime rejects any just solution to end the war and to establish peace, and why its intentions are expansion and aggression. When we say that Khomeyni's Zionist regime is the devoted servant of imperialism and Zionism it is not without reason. All facts and all the acts of this regime speak of the absolute dependence of the Tehran regime on imperialism and Zionism. Khomeyni's regime can never hide this reality from the Muslims of Iran and of the region.

The only thing that can be done in the face of this deceit and lies by this inhuman and Zionist regime is to turn to God Almighty who knows whatever is going on and to pray for the salvation of the oppressed people of Iran from the clutches of these impostors, hypocrites, bloodthirsty and opportunist mullahs and to punish these hellish kaffirs in this world.

FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNS JERUSALEM MEETING

JN191320 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The Foreign Ministry official spokesman has stated the following: Since some members of the Political Committee of the European Parliamentary Council have held their meeting in the city of Jerusalem, ignoring the UN resolutions and those of the UN Security Council regarding the city of Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories, and despite all the warnings from the Arab states and their parliaments and legislative bodies, the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan views this meeting as a blatant violation of international will and constitutes support for the aggressor in reaping the fruit of its aggression. This committee should have benefitted from Europe's long experience in enduring aggression and occupation and should have supported the oppressed in defense of right and justice.

While thanking those European states whose committee members had declined to attend this meeting in harmony with the principles of right and justice, Jordan is looking forward to the emergency session of the Arab League Council meeting which will be held in Tunis at representatives level in order to adopt the adequate measures which will guarantee Arab rights and will prevent further support of the Zionist enemy which continuously rejects implementation of the binding UN Security Council resolutions and indulges in occupying Arab land and uses the ugliest methods of terrorism and repression against the Arab citizens.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY TO RESUME FLIGHTS TO CAIRO

JN191530 Amman AL-'UFUQ AL-IQTISADI in Arabic 19 May 82 p 7

[Text] A Syrian Airlines delegation is now in Cairo to discuss the resumption of flights between Damascus and Cairo.

Flights were resumed between Bagdhad and Cairo and there are four flights per day, not three as was reported earlier.

SARKIS TELLS CABINET ABOUT SECURITY SITUATION

NC191759 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 May 82

[Excerpt] President of the Republic Ilyas Sarkis chaired at 1245 this afternoon the weekly Cabinet session which was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers. Following the session, which lasted until 1445, Secretary General of the Cabinet Dr 'Umar Musayki stated the following official information:

At the beginning of the session, His Excellency President Sarkis reviewed before the Cabinet the general situation in the country, especially the security situation and the aggravation of the situation in Sidon during the past week and the losses sustained in lives and property. His excellency said: It is regrettable that during the abnormal situations the country is undergoing, the legal authority does not have the necessary capabilities to put an end to these situations. It is also regrettable that aggression, now and then, occurs against army personnel and internal security forces while they are performing their duties.

Directives have been issued to the judicial organs concerned to investigate the above-mentioned security incidents and to undertake the necessary followup measures.

AL-WAZZAN STATEMENT ON SIDON, CEASE-FIRE

NC191353 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The Cabinet ended its session a short while ago. Following the meeting, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan stated the following:

[Begin recording] There is nothing new to tell you. Events are proceeding as everyone knows. But it must be said that the Cabinet, in addition to its general political concerns, has shown special concern over the situation in Sidon. The security situation in the city and the provision of all types of aid to it were reviewed. We all expressed regret, pain and denunciation of what took place there. We also discussed what needs to be done so that such events do not recur in Sidon or in any other Lebanese area. More contacts regarding this affair must be made so that stability can prevail in the ravaged city.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, are contacts being made regarding the stike which may be called an open strike?

[Answer] We appreciate the stand and the suffering of the inhabitants of Sidon which they express by closing down their city. We hope, through our cooperation with all those concerned, to eliminate the causes. [of disturbances] so the inhabitants of Sidon can feel assured about their daily lives. [end recording]

Further Report

NC192227 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has stated that the discussion during the Cabinet meeting dealt with what should be done to avoid a recurrence of the recent incidents [in Sidon].

Answering a question, he said Lebanon does not approve of any interpretation of the cease-fire in southern Lebanon if such in interpretation permits the resumption of firing. He added that the Israeli enemy is trying to expand its interpretation [of the cease-fire] and is continuously using Lebanese territory as a target for its attacks.

Al-Wazzan affirmed that Lebanon was not a party to the cease-fire and that it just took notice of it.

PARIS EMBASSY DENIES ACCUSATIONS ON EXPLOSION

JN190636 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The Syrian Embassy in Paris has again strongly dismissed all accusations against Syria, particularly those holding Syria responsible for last month's explosion that devastated Marbeuf Street outside the offices of AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI magazine.

The emabassy issued a statement yesterday strongly condemning the wave of anti-Syrian campaigns in France and those who have rekindled the fire of these campaigns by fabricating false information and stories contravening facts in an attempt to launch a new hysterical campaign against Syria. The statement asserts that these lies and hysterical campaigns are primarily aimed at preventing the achievement of any accord between Syria and France and at harming their bilateral relations.

FOREIGN MINISTRY URGES ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

JN190944 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA) -- The Syrian Foreign Ministry today asked the Arab League General Secretariat to hold an urgent session of the league's council to discuss the means and measures that must be adopted against Zaire, which has decided to restore relations with the Zionist enemy and to reopen its embassy in occupied Jerusalem.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RECEIVES ANTI-JORDANIAN GROUPS

JN200738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi has met with the delegation of the Jordanian National Democratic Coalition [At-Tkattul ad-Dimuqrati al-Qawmi Fil al-Urdun], which represents various groups of the Jordanian national liberation movement as follows: the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party, the March Revolutionary Committees and the People's Movement in Jordan.

The discussion dealt with the situation in the Arab and Jordanian arenas and the Jordanian regime's traitorous stands on the Palestine question, its subversive and conspiratorial role against Syria, its criminal support for the Muslim Brotherhood gang, its relations with the regime of As-Sadat and his successor Mubarak, its subservience in the service of Camp David, imperialism and Zionism, its role in the Iraqi-Iranian war and its contribution toward widening Arab differences and conflicts.

The members of the delegation praised Syria's pan-Arab role and firm revolutionary stands. They also strongly denounced all forms of plotting and pressure on this struggler country and expressed their absolute support for Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in is resistance to the savage onslaught against the Arab region.

KNESSET DEBATES MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE

Peres Speech

TA191008 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0907 GMT 19 May 82

[Address by opposition leader MK Shim'on Peres to the Knesset -- live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, distinguished Knesset members, I would like to open my remarks with a compliment to Finance Minister Yoram Aridor: He is the best finance minister the State of Israel has had -- from a partisan point of view. He has really improved its status in the elections campaign, on the eve of elections and since the elections, and from a partisan point of view he deserves to be complimented. However, to my regret, he has been the worst finance minister the State of Israel has had from both the national and social points of view. He had exceptional opportunities to improve Israel's economic situation: the price of oil, foodstuffs and raw materials has dropped; our land has been blessed with an incomparable -- both in quality and price -- abundance of cheap fruits and vegetables. The Americans were generous, they increased their (?donations). The preceding finance minister, Yiga'el Hurvitz, made efforts to save foreign currency, leaving him cash; he improved Israel's balance of payments.

To my regret, a very serious and bad thing happened to the state -- albeit favorable for the finance minister: when immigration all but stopped, emigration continued at an accelerated pace; jobs and apartments have become vacant. Yet, there has been a serious deterioration in all the main walks of life in Israel. Under the Likud's rule over the last 5 years, not only have we not approached economic independence, we have moved farther away. Israel's economic dependence on foreign elements has risen from a net $6.2 billion in 1974 to $18.4 billion now, three times as much. In 5 years, the Likud has expanded Israel's outside dependence by three times -- this is an extraordinary talent.

In 1981, Aridor's year, our foreign debt rose by a net $2.5 billion and the loans Aridor has taken out are short-term and at the high interest rate of 17 percent.

The Central Bureau of Statistics has revealed that family income last year increased by 9 percent but our foreign debt also increased by the same rate. In other words, Yoram Aridor loaned dollars overseas and handed out shekels in Israel -- not in exchange for jobs, and involving money that we did not own. [heckling by unidentified MK]

Has he served the people well or has he deluded them? Who is going to pay for it? I want to tell the members of the Likud: I know you tend to make promises during this term and fulfill them in your next term in power. We have learned of a very interesting philosophy that Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich explained to the chairman of the coalition, Mr Avraham Shapira: We have indeed signed promisory notes, but who says we have to make good on them this term. I am not talking about the days of the Messiah, I am talking about the current situation... [heckling by unidentified MK]

Who is buying and who is selling? I have bought.... Pinhas Goldstein, you are a young member of the Knesset. Have you heard about [Likud MK] 'Aqiva Nof, and [former Movement for Change MK's] Asaf Yaguri and Shafiq As'ad? Have you heard about [Likud MK] Hilel Seidel? Menahem Begin, the hero of heroes.... I have not bought anybody. You, the members of the Likud, disappointed the people. You acted in contradiction to your platform; you deluded the people. Amnon Linn and Yitzhaq Peretz behaved honestly. [Knesset Speaker Savidor calls on various MK's to stop heckling]

I saw a report on television about a Knesset member who said the government was responsible for the dire situation of the citrus growing industry -- the name of that man is MK Pesah Grupper.

Nevertheless, he remains in the government. Is that his conscience? You, Deputy Agriculture Minister, appear on television saying the citrus growing industry is destroyed. So why do you still sit in the government? [Knesset speaker calls on various MK's to stop heckling]

Who will pay the interest: the farmers and the industrialists? As it is now, they already have to pay 25 percent of their income as interest. What is the situation of the younger generations, the unemployed and the development towns?

Under the Likud's rule, members of the Knesset -- and I know there are sensible people among you -- you remain loyal to your seat -- under the Likud's rule, the social gap has widened to worrisome dimensions. This is the chief reason why Yitzhaq Peretz left the Likud. Child allowances have gone down from 5 percent of the average salary in 1975 to 3 percent in 1982 -- that is, a 40 percent drop in child allowances.

According to data supplied by the National Insurance Institute, there were 100,000 children below the poverty line in 1980-81 even after the allowances were paid: Namely, 12 percent of the children in Israel live below the line which our society regards as the minimum line.

Members of the Knesset, this month for the first time in the history of our state, old age pensions were reduced by 3 percent. This applies to 190,000 people. You are really doing a service to the people, the children and the elderly.

At the beginning of 1981, the two highest income brackets of Israeli society enjoyed 39.7 percent -- almost 40 percent -- of the general income of the urban salaried people, whereas the two lowest income brackets received only 6.7 percent.

Since the Likud's rise to power, this trend of a rise of the high brackets and a drop in the share of the low brackets has been detected in scary proportions. Five years ago, the share in income of the two higher income brackets was lower by almost 40 percent than the current rate, whereas the share of the two lower income brackets was higher by 4 percent.

Third [as heard], the deficit in the balance of payments amounted to $4.4 billion despite the rise in exports of defense products and the drop in prices in the world.

Members of the Knesset, inflation is noticeably declining throughout the world. In his last speech in the Knesset, the finance minister sneered at those predicting a rise in inflation. Last year, he succeeded to some extent in reaping the fruits of the efforts made by his predecessor. However, this time, Aridor succeeded Aridor, rather than Yiga'el Hurvitz.

A rise of 10.7 percent in the rate of inflation in May [month as heard] -- the secretary general of the Histadrut has mentioned that the rise was in fact much higher -- constitutes the highest rise in the world in the month of May of this year. This rise has also exposed the real price of the policy of ingratiation rather than a policy of bearing the burden.

Mr Aridor prides himself on the fact that there is almost no unemployment in Israel although, Mr Aridor, a 5.4 percent rate of unemployment is not negligible in Israel. At present, there are in Israel -- mainly in the development areas -- 75,000 unemployed, of which 47 percent are under the age of 24. In other words, a great many of them are army veterans. [heckling by various MK's]

However, Mr Aridor, what is this comparison you are drawing between Israel and other countries? In Israel, 25 percent of the total manpower is engaged in military service and in security affairs compared with 6 or 7 percent in other countries. What is the comparison?

Finally, the situation of agriculture. About 100 moshavim have collapsed and another 100 moshavim are on the verge of collapsing. How did this happen? Was agriculture unsuccessful? Were the farmers unsuccessful? Not really, the agriculture industry and the farmers are among the best in the world. We should be proud of our agriculture, we have rich harvests and excellent working methods. Mr Agriculture Minister, what can a farmer do when he has to pay one-quarter, or sometimes one-half of his total income as interest; development investments in the agriculture....

I would like to point out to the foreign minister and the agriculture minister that the latter is missing and not listening to what he should listen. [Knesset speaker asks Agriculture Minister Ehrlich and Foreign Minister Shamir to stop their conversation]

Investments in agriculture have dropped by 26 percent and the farmers' income in real terms has dropped by 31 percent in the last 5 years in the wake of the government's policy and inflation. Mr Aharon Uzan, you were agriculture minister once; you are probably familiar with the government you have recently joined.

Where are these moshavim? They are in the Galilee, in the Ta'anakh areas, in the outskirts of Jerusalem, the Lakhish region -- Jews who spent their prime in making the desert bloom, in defending the borders. One of them told me: You there in the Knesset, please see to the prices of apples and tomatoes. For our part, we will in any case withstand the dangers of Katyushas and cannons.

Members of the Knesset, the issue we raised today does not refer to business. At stake is the administration of the life of our people and its more basic principles. Members of the Likud, what is it that makes you so proud to settle accounts with others? Are you proud about the nonexistent aliyah? You spoke a lot and incited on the question of tin huts, tents and slums. Why should we be ashamed of it? Is it not better to have tin huts and tents coupled with immigrants and aliyah to Israel rather than emigration from Israel and luxurious villas standing empty? What efforts did you make to absorb the immigrants? Why are you so flustered and angry? What is it that makes you so proud? Are you proud about your striving for economic independence, an independence which you were forced [as heard] to give up? You are mortgaging the future of our children to hasty, short-term loans carrying high rates of interest. Is it not obvious that economic dependence leads to political dependence? What are you so proud of? Of the widening social gap which, in spite of the lack of immigration, has expanded? Mr Aridor, what is the value of your policy if 100,000 children live below the poverty line? What are you so proud of? Galloping inflation?

Mr Ehrlich wants again to go to the people. Mr Ehrlich, you are the cause of this inflation. Why would you go to the people, to make an agreement with Agudat Yisra'el? This galloping inflation ruins everything that is good in Israeli society, is a shrewd trick and punishes those working in the fields and the workshops.

What are you so proud of? About the sad state of agriculture, Mr Ehrlich? Is that what you are going to the people with? Given the dire situation of 200 moshavim, you will yet have to take umbrage under Mr Begin's wings. What are you so proud of? [Heckling by MK Pesah Grupper and others who chide Peres about holding early elections]

I have declared I am ready to go to the people along with Pesah Grupper -- with the great attractor of votes who is called Pesah Grupper -- with you, with Mr Ehrlich, with whoever you want. We will go to the people, just calm down.

[Are you proud of] the agricultural slump you have brought down on us, after we tried to regain land -- rather than just territories -- and to lead our people back to working the land?

You destroyed this effort to return to the land, to work the land, to create a proud and profitable agriculture. What are you so pleased and satisfied about? What are you so proud of? Of the lack of investment in the industry at a time when a huge industrial revolution is underway in the world? We, not you, built the foundations and there is abundant talent in Israel to turn this country.... [heckling by MK Mikha'el Deqel]

We could have turned Israel into a first-rate country in the technological, scientific, industrial and agricultural fields. Instead, all the money is handed out. You did not attempt to cope with the problems, you did not take care of (?gaining strength) for the future. Waste now, today, immediately, everything rather than exercise introspection and balance. Mr Aridor, you did not demand anything from the people but applause. You did not demand they make an effort, a serious effort, productivity, savings; you did not take care for the younger generations. You just made promises on top of promises. You wasted huge resources that we had amassed. You mortgaged our social and national future.

Members of the Knesset, we are certainly in favor of settlement and agricultural activities, both in the cities and in the villages and for strengthening Israel's borders. However, it is not declarations that will maintain these settlements and develop them but their actual strengthening and expansion, both economically and socially.

At this point, I would like to say a word to the members of the movement for a Greater Eretz Yisra'el: Greater Eretz Yisra'el begins with the ships carrying immigrants and does not end with the villas. Whoever wants a strong Israel should see to immigration and absorption, close the gaps, take care of the food, housing and education of children.

Mr Speaker, it would have been fitting to replace this government for each and every one of the issues I mentioned; for acting against its platform, for doing things it did not mention in its platform, for issues related to immigration, gaps, deficits, the industrial and agricultural crises. Certainly, this government should be replaced because of a combination of all these points and failures. I call on the entire house to return to ourselves, to change.... [heckling by MK Yosef Rom]

Really, Yosef Rom, this befits other Knesset members, but not you. The first man who made such a move is a gentleman named Menahem Begin; he coopted people from the Democratic Movement for Change, the Independent Liberals; he has not stopped plotting, he does not stop libeling. You know, in such a situation, you and all decent people should not keep silent. Amnon Linn has the right to be shocked about what you did in the territories and about what you are doing to the Arabs. Yitzhaq Peretz -- if you have a conscience -- and you, too, David Magen: When the gap is so deep and you realize the situation, you should also quit. [heckling by MK Yig'al Kohen]

The principle that a seat in power takes precedence over everything else; that the platform and principles and not important, just so long as you remain glued to the seat....

I call on the members of this house, to return to ourselves, to return to an Israel that is more united, productive, fertile, more sensitive about equality and economic independence. In order to return to such an Israel it is necessary to replace your government and change the policy. We will do the best we can to put Israel back on the right track, to exhaust the vast treasures it holds and to exhause its huge capability.

[The Knesset speaker, after previous consultation with MK Peres, grants special permission to Likud MK's 'Aqiva Nof and Dov Shilansky to speak]

[Nof] In the previous Knesset, when I was a member of a faction participating in the government coalition, MK Peres appealed to me personally, through an envoy who was a member of the ninth Knesset, suggesting that I betray myself and my principles by joining in a vote against the coalition of which I was a member.

In exchange, I was promised a post in the Zionist Federation instead of Eli Eyal and that I would be a member of the current Knesset. I replied: There is nothing to talk about, I will not do this. I did not enter any negotiations and I announced my absolute allegiance to the movement I was reared in, to the Herut movement -- in exchange for nothing and in return for no promises. As is known, it is rather by accident that I am a member of the Knesset. After all this, does the man who made this suggestion to me have the nerve to state here that he is not used to a style where one enters negotiations about such shameful propositions?

[Shilansky] MK Peres, I listened to your words and got the impression that MK's Linn and Peretz joined you, doing what they did, for ideological motives. I would like to know whether their motives were purely ideological or whether they were promised anything. If they were promised anything, I would like to know whether you would honestly and openly tell this house about it. [heckling by MK Peretz]

[Peres -- continues] I would like to give a respectable answer to MK Dov Shilansky. I would like you to listen and -- believe me, I am speaking to you seriously -- I know that MK Yitzhaq Peretz has been like a caged lion, and you also know it. You may mock the friends who sat beside you yesterday but we will not. He, Peretz, is really concerned about the issue of social gaps and his decision was based on this concern. I want to tell you that he is not the only one -- there are others like him in the Likud. This is how the talks first started. [heckling by MK Yig'al Kohen]

I know that MK Ammon Linn -- and all the members of the Knesset are aware of this -- is indeed concerned about what is happening to the Arabs. He has more than once appealed to the prime minister, but to no avail. [further heckling by MK Yig'al Kohen]

MK Yitzhaq Peretz is a member of a Likud list. Even when you make internal agreements -- for example, between the Liberals and Herut -- you make sure about Knesset seats. Why this innocence, all of a sudden? Moreover, Hilel Seidel appealed to Begin -- ask him -- saying: Will I be able to leave the Likud and keep my Knesset seat? Begin replied: Certainly, that is the custom -- ask those who set moral standards. Indeed, when one makes an agreement it is certainly coupled with promises; that has been the custom in this house and I have nothing to be ashamed of. [heckling by MK Dov Shilansky about El Al flights on Saturdays]

MK Shilansky, we did not promise to stop El Al flights on Saturdays; we did not promise to enact the archaeology law; we did not promise to stop Egged. But you promised, and did not keep your promise. A man is sitting here who believes that a Knesset seat is more important than the Sabbath. One of the NRP leaders has even said it is possible to desecrate the Sabbath gradually: initially to desecrate Friday night, then Saturday morning until this Knesset term is out. I pity the chairman of the coalition who, incidentally, has been given the title of the town's master. Mr Avraham Shapira, you are a master but there are many poor people and that is what Ehrlich told you.... [heckling by various MK's]

As for 'Aqiva Nof: I did not send any messenger to you. Perhaps there were some colleagues who thought, on their own initiative, they could talk to you but they were not acting on my behalf. This is the first time I have heard such a story. However, I want to tell you seriously: You went to the people on a list headed by Yiga'el Yadin. On the first evening when Yiga'el Yadin appeared on television, he began his remarks with the following: Either Israel is democratic and un-Jewish or it is Jewish and undemocratic, and the only solution is a territorial compromise. All of a sudden, I find you sitting with people who stand against the things you stood for. Do not tell me stories about people who proposed agreements to you; no agreements were suggested to you on my behalf.

Mr Speaker, I do not know who proposed agreements to you. [heckling by unidentified MK]

The policy of treating Arabs as human beings.... I know that Telem is going to abstain today. The Telem which is watching the destruction of the open bridges [policy], which was built with great labor and wisdom -- you are undermining this policy for nothing. I am not talking about specific incidents, I am talking about a policy. Mr Begin has not stopped plotting among all the parties to attract Knesset members and set up a coalition -- beginning with MK Seidel and ending with Shafiq As'ad. Mr Prime Minister, you are not a negligible plotter. [At this point Prime Minister Begin enters the Knesset hall]

Mr Prime Minister, please sit quietly. Before you entered this hall, you and your office did not stop caluminating. Do you know what Scheib [Dr Yisra'el Eldad, an advocate of Greater Eretz Yisra'el] said about you, Mr Prime Minister? Your good friend Scheib said one should not believe even one of your words; this was stated by your old friend. [Heckling by various MK's] ....Begin will give up the oil and Begin will give up Judaea and Samaria and he should stop confusing the heart and the mind of the people with formulas and names, to cover himself. That is what Yisra'el Scheib said about Menahem Begin. We are not lacking quotations and their wisdom.

Mr Knesset Speaker, members of the Knesset: This Cabinet which undermines Israel's economic and social foundations, should be changed. We are saying this openly, rather than secretly. We will do the best we can to provide Israel with a responsible and sane policy to replace this government, which is upsetting normal procedures.

Aridor Speech

TA191134 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0947 GMT 19 May 82

[Speech by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor to the Knesset in response to the Alignment's motion of no confidence -- live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, honorable Knesset. It is very rare that MK Shim'on Peres addresses the Knesset over economic issues. But today he talked about economic issues because yesterday he specialized in bargaining. Recently Mr Peres has in general specialized in economic philosophies, and he has even written an article on new socialism. Interestingly enough, in that article he failed to mention how he combines new socialism with old Kalantarism [term coined for Kalantar, a former member of the Jerusalem Municipal Council]. Two Knesset members [changed partisan affiliation] in 1 day in a Kalantaristic way on an ideological basis. I will now explain the ideological basis on which of the Kalantaristic figures joined [the Alignment]: The agreement between MK Linn and the Alignment states, among other things, that out of concern for the serious and dangerous situation among the Israeli Arabs, the strengthening of extremist elements hostile to the country and operating under the influence of the PLO he would, of course, join the Alignment. In other words, the dam against the PLO is the leadership of MK Peres and MK Shahal. True. I have just now even received confirmation to this announcement; the two dams are MK Peres and MK Shahal.

Now let us tell the Knesset about a conversation between MK Peres and MK Shahal. MK Shahal said: I have returned from the Interparliamentary Union conference in Havana, and that was on the day As-Sadat was murdered. I sat with Shim'on Peres and told him: We must talk to the Palestinians and even with the PLO. Here are your two big dams!

[MK Shahal interjects, saying this is not true; the speaker reprimands him for using the word "lie"]

MK Peres, known for his great credibility, said no such conversation had taken place. MK Shahal...

[Indistinct interjection by MK Peres, who says he never denied such a conversation took place, but he is talking about the content of the talk]

MK Shahal said this is a lie; MK Peres said this was gossip.

Just now I have been accused by MK Shahal of having lied to the Knesset. MK Peres said I was quoting gossip. The quote has been extracted from an interview granted by MK Shahal published, with quotes, in the May issue of the monthly MONITIN, and I am holding a photocopy of the page on which the interview appears.

MK Shahal stated in a multipage interview the exact words I have just read out. These statements were not denied by MK Shahal; they were quoted in his name; and it is this MK Shahal said was a lie because he may have not known that the monthly is already on the market and could be purchased and quoted from.

MK Shahal tried to conceal from the Knesset how he suggested to MK Peres that it was imperative to hold talks with the PLO, and the Kalantaristic Knesset member has joined the Alignment because it is necessary to prevent the PLO from gaining influence. [He joined] Peres and Shahal, the ones who have to talk to the PLO.

This is the quote, this is the photocopy, and all Knesset members can see it, as can the entire public. Everyone should know that secretly MK Shahal is suggesting that MK Peres talk to the PLO, but he denies this off the Knesset podium and did not admit it in the Knesset. He did not tell the Knesset. It was in secret because he did so 6 months ago and Peres has denied the conversation. The suggestion was made as early as in October 1981, but MK Shahal concealed the content of this conversation, and MK Peres denied it. But in secret the Alignment is preparing for a dialogue with the PLO and MK Linn is joining it.

Throughout his entire speech, Mr Peres failed to use two words he often used prior to the elections. Before the election he talked a lot about public morality, but today he did not mention these two important words. I could not hear one word about public morality throughout his speech. He only said that the people do not deal and scheme ['isqot uqnunyot]. Now MK Peres struck a deal whereby two Knesset members [join the Alignment] in return for certain promises. How could MK Peres' ideology have changed? Fifteen years ago your plan was to have a private car for each employee; now your plan calls for a portfolio for each deserter. [laughter]

This I am saying about you, however, now let us talk about the truants. MK Peres does not want to have elections. He is not suggesting elections and did not submit any such offer. He does not want elections because he does not believe the people have faith in them -- and the people rightfully have no faith in him. However, he is trying to overthrow the elected government by using Kalantaristic measures in Israel's Knesset in order to distort the voters' wishes, to distort the results of the elections. This is the system Mr Peres, with a lack of honesty and morality, is trying to implement in Israel. Mr Peres, do you wish to implement your personal morality in Israel's Knesset? What would such a regime be called: Kalantaristic socialism?

But let us say something about the deserters, whereas normally the phenomenon is that the rats flee from the sinking ship, this time the rats ran to the sinking boat. So, Mr Peres, nothing will help. The people will see the immoral, antidemocratic and irresponsible conduct with which you and MK Shahal have been leading the Alignment while many Alignment voters, who voted for you, are today ashamed of your behavior. [heckling] I am not speaking in their name, but [MAPAM] MK Imri Ron is.

MK Peres, with his great expertise in economics, talked about a social gap. It would be worthwhile for MK Peres to know what has already been said in the Knesset; still it would be worthwhile if he knew that in 1981 the price index of the lower stratum ['asiron] rose by less than the [general] consumer price index by about 10 percent; and the price index of the higher strata rose by more. But let me not talk about last year; I will talk about today.

We have been conducting negotiations with the Histadrut, represented by MK Meshel, and we have been suggesting -- for the sake of easing the burden on the weaker strata -- that they be given an advance on the basis of the new wage agreement for the weaker strata. Not compensation for erosion [of real wages]; there is no erosion. Real wages have gone up and continue to do so, yet there was no erosion; but we said that since the wage negotiations were taking a long time, we are offering to agree with the Histadrut and MK Meshel on advance payment to the weaker strata. This suggestion was rejected by the spokesmen because of the gap, not by those who take action to prevent it, but by those who created it in Israel and housed it in the distressed neighborhoods which we are not rehabilitating.

We suggested giving advance payments to the weak strata, but the suggestion was turned down. We offered this, so why are you refusing? Since MK Meshel, MK Peres and MK Shahal are either unaware of these problems or wish to strengthen the strong at the expense of the weak and in their name, we will not stand aside and do nothing, despite your advantage. Therefore, I am hereby announcing that I have given an instruction for a 500-Shekel advance payment to be given to all public service workers whose income is below the average market wages. This instruction will be implemented unilaterally with the consent of the Cabinet without waiting for the agreement of Yeruham Meshel.

We do not need the demagoguery of Meshel in order to care for the weak strata. We have issued this instruction in spite of the Histadrut's objection; when he approached the podium today, MK Peres could have, instead of saying bombastic and pompous things, come and said that he accepted this government proposal. Instead, he suggested a vote of no confidence in the Cabinet over the social gap and opposes our suggestions that are intended to ease the predicament of the weaker strata. Well, this instruction -- of giving advance payment to the weaker strata in the public service -- will be implemented. I urge all employers -- private and Histadrut -- to follow the example of the government.

We offered tripartite negotiations and full increments that would protect real wages, so there will no longer be problems of erosion. We suggested real wage increments that would be linked to the rise in productivity, and there will be a rise in real wages in accordance with productivity. Yet the Histadrut and Meshel are not prepared to discuss all these offers. What they want to present is an ultimatum, a dictate to the Cabinet in the name of the strong, for the sake of the strong, to foul labor relations and effect strikes and anarchy in the economy. Yesterday we suggested a deal with the Histadrut and the coordinating bureau of questions of wages and taxation because the government is even prepared to lower taxes in order to ease the burden on the lower income strata. They did not agree to the package deal either. MK Peres failed to mention this, too, whereas before the elections the Histadrut pledged to reach an agreement between the cabinet, the Histadrut and the economic bodies on a policy of wages and prices. They did not want to enter negotiations.

So can MK Peres come and speak for the weak?

Let me say something about inflation. The month of April is known to be the Alignment's month of festivities. In April the Alignment rejoices because there is a high index. Last year in April the index was the same as this year: exactly 10.7. MK Ben-Meir said that is what it was last April and today, in April, it was 10.7. After the speeches and what happened last April, the opposition speakers came and said the index must surely rise, inflation will soar and there is no chance of combating inflation.

That was in April 1981. In April the index is high. So, since the index is high the Alignment is having a ball and they can somehow know already what the end-of-year index will be! How did they receive the gift of prophecy? Yet they are not so sure. They do not know precisely: Perhaps the index will still not rise on an annual computation. Perhaps inflation will not rise. In that case they have a set formula, and this is the justification the Alignment provided for his motion of no confidence: if the rise in the index continues at the same rate as in the months of January to April 1982, this year's inflation will reach 133 percent; hence it is necessary to express no confidence in the Cabinet.

Last year, too, inflation in the first 4 months was high and then went down. But if the rise continues at the same rate -- last year it did not continue at the same rate -- then no confidence in the Cabinet should be expressed. What kind of phrasing is this?

You could have said that last year Professor Ben-Shahar predicted inflation would reach 500 percent. If Professor Ben-Shahar's predictions continue, inflation would reach 500 percent, and that is why no confidence in the Cabinet should be expressed.

What kind of reason for expressing no confidence is this? You are even not sure of what you are arguing! You do not know whether the rise in inflation will continue. You say: If it continues, and still you suggest no confidence! What kind of strange justification, possibly the strangest in the history of the Knesset, is this? Never has such a reasoning -- that if inflation continues then there is room for no confidence -- been employed before.

This year we improved the GNP and production in the business sector. Mr Peres knows, or at least should know, that the rise in the GNP last year was the highest since 1974 and production growth in the business sector the highest since 1972, that there was development in production and investments, and that there was a positive development in the growth of the economy. We have gone back to rapid growth, but not at the expense of our trade deficit, which was as stable as it was in 1980 and did not rise. But Mr Peres is not interested in facts. There are facts, but Mr Peres is trying to distort them. There are also facts in the elections, and Mr Peres is trying to distort them as well by his Kalantaristic socialism. I think it requires a great deal of gall to come to the Knesset, after using not a brilliant but a dirty trick like this, and dare to suggest passing a vote of no confidence in the Cabinet. I ask that the motion be defeated.

[Mr Shahal, who was granted permission to speak by the speaker] Mr Speaker, [words indistinct] the finance minister [words indistinct] from this podium as well as at a news conference, and I repeat them here: I told Shim'on Peres -- and I repeat here what I said at the Knesset, too -- that in the opinion of friends from all the European countries, the government's policy will lead to negotiations with the PLO that would be forced upon us and the PLO. Yet I would like to ask the finance minister something: What can he say about a quotation, or announcement, dated 18 December 1976, in which the present defense minister, who is a member of this Cabinet, said -- in response to a question of whether he was prepared to have contacts with the PLO -- the following: I am in favor of contacts with everyone, including the PLO. I would like to ask the finance minister why he does not cite what Prime Minister Mr Begin said, namely, that if PLO members are elected as part of the autonomy, there will be no other choice but to fight them while conducting negotiations with them. I ask the finance minister, who is standing here, trying to appear righteous, why he did not say even one word in September 1975 when 'Ezer Weizman said he was prepared to conduct negotiations with Yasir Arafat. I tell you, the method you have used does not enhance your dignity or honor.

[Aridor] I would like to answer. [indistinct interjection by MK Yeruham Meshel] I am glad Mr Meshel is prepared to conduct negotiations with me, at least in the Knesset auditorium.

[Meshel] Mr Finance Minister, one should tell the truth in the Knesset. [general laughter, including by Aridor] You made a statement, Mr Finance Minister, that is not true. We conducted negotiations with your representatives while you were abroad. We reached an official agreement with your representatives, and the Finance Ministry's legal adviser announced in court that the agreement stipulates the negotiations we launched in good faith and with goodwill would not be a unilateral reduction of 14 to 25 shekels. Upon your return from abroad, you violated the trust of your representatives and your legal adviser's announcement in court by issuing an instruction violating a clear and definite agreement to continue the negotiations and to reach one in good faith. You violated an explicit agreement with the representatives of the Finance Ministry headed by the director-general of the Finance Ministry. You tried to conduct negotiations with the representatives of the 13 unions behind the back of the Histadrut. Well, the employees are not beggars and they will not accept charity or alms from you. Negotiations with you, yes, but unilateral instructions from you, no. I urge you, Mr Finance Minister: I started talking to you in a nice manner; please continue the negotiations and do not issue instructions contrary to agreements. Begin negotiations, and see that the road to negotiations is open. The one who prevents negotiations from taking place is you, Mr Finance Minister.

[Aridor] Mr Speaker: I noticed something interesting in the question presented by MK Shahal. In his interjection, he told me: It is a lie; but in his question, he said: You took things out of context. This is already the third verison. [MK Shahal interjects saying it is a lie]

MK Shahal, if you continue thus to contradict your own statements, I will have to say that your credibility is equal to that of MK Peres.

Not only were these things not a lie, they have not even been taken out of context. I read out the passage, and it is clear. I returned from the meeting of the Interparliamentary Union in Havana on the day As-Sadat was assassinated. I sat with Shim'on Peres, telling him: It is absolutely necessary to talk with the Palestinians, and even with the PLO. Is this a lie? Then how did it get out of context?

[Indistinct interjection by MK Shahal]

Then why are you complaining things were taken out of context?

I suggest: Before consulting one's lawyer, everyone has the right to remain silent. Let him exercise his right to silence.

Now, to MK Meshel: MK Meshel, one should really use the word "truth", and convey the truthful content not only in your party's balloting ticket. Truth is needed in everything, not only in the Knesset. Well, there was no agreement; but this is not the issue. The problem, after all, is not someone's prestige. The problem is not whether there is or is not an agreement. The problem is that you refused to accept my suggestion to hold tripartite negotiations between the Histadrut, the Cabinet and the coordinating bureau. This you did despite the fact that in a Histadrut announcement you published prior to the elections -- when you had no idea which government would be elected -- which purported to refer to any government whatever, you said the Histadrut would cooperate with the government in gradually controling prices through an agreement between the Cabinet, the Histadrut and the economic bodies over the wages and prices policy. Here you suggested an agreement, but with me you are even unprepared to enter negotiations. You have been trying to idle the economy, to cause anarchy and announce dictates without negotiations. MK Meshel, you could have said something about the weak. Yesterday your deputy turned down a suggestion to give to the weak -- only to the weak, not to the strong. It is not necessary to worry about the strong, MK Meshel, even though ... It is necessary to take care of the weak. I would like to tell you that you will not dictate, we will not be taken aback by your threats, and despite your efforts the market will not slide into unemployment. We will prevent unemployment. The working public, MK Meshel, is not subservient to Yeruham Meshel or the vassals of Yisra'el Qeysar [his deputy in the Histadrut].

Begin Speech

TA191445 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1406 GMT 19 May 82

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin concluding the speeches at the Knesset debate on the motion of no confidence, Begin speaks from the podium -- live]

[Text] Mr Speaker, gentlemen, Knesset members. Yesterday at noon I met with the entire La'am faction. Taking part in the talk were Knesset members -- excuse me -- Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak and Knesset members Yig'al Kohen and Ehud Olmert and also MK Amnon Linn. The talk was actually held in a good atmosphere and I, at a certain moment, asked MK Linn the following question: Tell me, Amnon, my friend, if my friends in Haifa had accepted my recommendation according to which you should have headed the Likud list as candidate for mayor of Haifa, would you have remained in the Likud? And this was his answer: I would storm into it, I would enlist. I asked him: In the framework of the Likud? He said, the Likud. Five minutes later he informed me he was going home -- to the Alignment. What would he have done had he enlisted and stormed into the Likud ranks in Haifa? Take control from the Alignment in the town once called the red town, and make the Likud, led by him, the ruler, and after all this, he is returning home, to the Alignment? However, perhaps what is graver is the secret agreement the contents of which was revealed by Mr Yitzhaq Peretz through the paper HA'ARETZ and today I will bring to the Knesset's attention the clauses in that agreement.

[Apparently looking around the Knesset] Where is Shim'on? [Peres] Fine, fine, I am not complaining, I am not complaining.

Well, Mr Shim'on Peres signed an agreement with Mr Yitzhaq Peretz and here are its clauses as they were published this morning in HA'ARETZ. One: his incorporation -- enough of these ugly interruptions -- his incorporation in the Knesset list before the 25th place and second candidate on it up to the 55th place in the list. [as heard] Representation in the next Cabinet, on behalf of the Alignment. Oh, Mr Peretz, how long you will still have to wait for that representation, oh, oh. Three: keeping his post in the Zionist Federation. Today he acts as the chairman of the Zionist steering committee, his place will be kept for him there. Four -- true, it is on behalf of the Likud, but the Alignment has promised him to keep his place lest the Likud should want to replace him because he was put there by the Likud and on its behalf -- four, and this is the main point, gentlemen, the granting of posts to members of Mr Yitzhaq Peretz' faction on the council of directors of various economic concerns. This is not just political bribery, it is financial bribery. This is a question of income. Another clause about going together to the Histadrut, that is not important. And this agreement was signed by the leader of the Labor Party in Israel.

It is no wonder that HA'ARETZ afterward wrote that senior Knesset members from the Labor Party yesterday severely criticized the actions taken for the incorporation into the Alignment of MK's Linn and Peretz. The majority agreed this was a question of Kalantarism [term coined after Kalantar, a former member of the Jerusalem Municipal Council], this was said by senior Alignment members. Afterward the paper continues to relate, in quotes: "Although the prevalent view among members of the Alignment is that for the sake of toppling the Likud, there is no alternative even from acts of this sort and the objective is to make the means holy."

The objective makes the means holy? What, have you become like the Pharisees? What end of sentence? [apparently in reaction to heckling from the Knesset] The DAVAR paper [further shouting from the Knesset] publishes an editorial today and I will read some short sentences from it. As the largest faction in the Knesset, the Alignment is due to profit directly from toppling the government. Dear God: profit; what sort of a word is that? The paper of the workers of Eretz Yisra'el speaks about profit.

What is the profit?

Listen, I also have a quotation from 'AL HAMISHMAR, Victor [meaning Victor Shem-Tov], yes, I do, just a little patience. What is the profit? Listen well, gentlemen, Knesset members: The president will give the Alignment representative the task of trying to form a new government and only if he fails will the mission be again laid upon Menahem Begin. DAVAR already knows what the president will do? From where? According to the law, the president can assign the task of forming a government to Telem. Just so. That is his authority. [uproar in Knesset]

Yig'al, I will serve under you, if you ask me. I am not just promising, I am ready. In brief, I want to ask again: From where does DAVAR determine what the president of the state will do? I repeat: It is the full responsibility of the president to assign a Knesset member the task -- but it is true that to date he has given the task to a Knesset member who was a representative of the leading party.

So, DAVAR apparently wants to say that today the Alignment is the leading faction and so the president will decide to assign it the task. Is this so? This is completely distorted, what DAVAR says. Why? There were elections 10 months ago and the public gave the Likud 10,000 votes more than they gave the Alginment. The number of seats was 48 for the Likud, 47 for the Alignment. That is the wish of the voters in Israel. With manipulation [last word in English], with bargaining and tricks, with Kalantarism, that is not how you change the voter's mind in Israel. Well, I want to inform you, gentlemen, count, count, it will not do you any good, the leading faction in the Knesset according to the decision of the voter in Israel is the Likud. The second is the Alignment. Even if you add the communist votes to your votes, you will still not be the leading faction and so it was a grave mistake for the paper DAVAR to write as if speaking for the president.

What sort of a phenomenon is that? What contempt for the office of the presidency to write that the president will assign the task of forming a government to just anyone, against the desire of the voters and their decision. [uproar in the Knesset] In the Jerusalem POST, I read the words of MK Shevah Weiss. Is MK Weiss here? You will bear me out whether I am reading the words correctly. Well, MK Weiss says -- the author of a book on Kalantarism -- that in his opinion what happened here in the Knesset is pure Kalantarism. Pure...how can Kalantarism be pure? But what is written in English is pure Kalantarism, pure [last three words in English]. Just the contrary is true. But that is what is written in English. So I have translated literally: pure [last word in English] -- pure. Pure Kalantarism.

And then MK Shevah Weiss continues: But this is its first appearance on the national level. Unlike in the previous cases, in which Knesset members decided to change party membership, this is the first real act of Kalantarism in the Knesset. MK Weiss also said Linn and Peretz followed the path of Kalantar because, the basic definition of a Kalantarist is that he is in a situation in which he can influence the future of the government or permit it to remain in power or to topple it; that is exactly what Linn and Peretz can do.

Weiss continued by recalling an incident from 1965, when the then secretary general of MAPAI was defeated by an attempt by the Labor Party "to buy", in quotes, a RAFI member of the Tiberias Muncipality, who initiated an interparty agreement against Kalantarism which, for some years, erased that ugly phenomenon. Is Shevah Weiss a member of the Likud? I find him on the bench opposite the Likud. Those are his words.

Another member of the Labor Party was heard arguing with Shim'on Peres and he insisted on saying: The Labor Party did something ugly. If this is not Kalantarism, I do not know what that term means. A Knesset member is sitting here listening, he knows who I mean. I do not want to say who he is.

MK Virshubsky said yesterday: While I am opposed to the government and am one of its most outspoken critics -- I confirm that, he is one of the sharpest and most vehement critics -- what is written is is outspoken [last word in English], I could not find a better word -- fine, well, let me tell what you said, do not interrupt me when I want to quote you, word for word. What happened here today was dirty, complete Kalantarism. This time it was not pure [last word in English] but dirty, filthy [last word in English]. Before that it was dirty [last word in English]. For Shevah Weiss it was dirty [last word in English], Virshubsky wrote filthy [last word in English]. There is a difference, a very basic one. I cannot -- Virshubsky said -- find sufficiently sharp words to attack this, because this is the first time we have witnessed such deals in the Knesset. A former friend of Yitzhaq Peretz, Hayim Hakham, decided to leave MK Peretz' party and join the Likud movement. I think now I can be permitted to say this was clear profit. We lost Peretz and we gained Hakham [play on words -- Hakham is also wise] [laughter in Knesset] But he told the Jerusalem POST that Peretz has two agreements with the Labor Party, one on the table -- that is to prove good intentions -- and a second agreement under the table, which is an agreement about profits, in English, benefits [last word in English]. Peretz, Hakham relates, boasted to his colleagues yesterday morning about that secret agreement whose only copy is in Peretz' hands.

Well, it is no wonder that Shim'on did not want to hear these things. Two agreements, gentlemen. One on and the other under the table. A leader in Israel signs two agreements. I do not want to draw comparisons. Oh, if I were to draw a comparison between the two agreements, you would hit the ceiling. I do not want to provoke you. Two agreements, one of them a secret protocol, not for publication.

Now, Victor, I am coming to the paper 'AL HAMISHMAR. This is what was written in that paper this morning: The toppling of the Likud government is a sacred objective, but does this make all the measures sacred? And, at some certain point, a delicate balancing point, disgraceful measures negate the objective itself. Is this judgment correct with relation to MK's Amnon Linn's and Yitzhaq Peretz' long jump from the Likud to the Alignment? Questions and embarrassments. He who deals with politics and wants a change in the rule cannot keep his hands clean enough. Good heavens, Victor, MAPAM says that hands cannot be kept clean enough? Are there hands that are too clean? Either they are clean or they are not clean.

I cannot ever understand it when people say about someone that he is too honest. What is too honest? Either he is or he is not honest. Too clean...just a minute, do not... listen, I am quoting 'AL HAMISHMAR, do not interrupt me... I will get to that, too, Yig'al... Well, let me finish.

But if he is a socialist and a democrat, he is also forbidden to dip his glove in mud. It is forbidden to dip his glove in mud, 'AL HAMISHMAR wr tes, lest his true nature be lost. Knesset members Amnon Linn and Yitzhaq Peretz are strengthening the rightist wing of the Labor Party, causing the Alignment's image as a crystallized political and moral opposition, completely different from the Likud, to be confused. Those two Knesset members agreed wholeheartedly to the Herut elections platform and so their words about returning to the ranks of the Alignment and returning home arouse thoughts about the nature of the home to which they are returning.

The paper 'AL HAMISHMAR, now, personally... Sir, I will not argue with you, sit down... do not argue. [heckling from the Knesset, apparently Yosi Sarid is the main heckler] I do not argue with that distrubed person [metusqal]. [further heckling and shouts] [after an uproar, the Knesset speaker reproves MK Yosi Sarid and asks for quiet, saying it is the prime minister's prerogative to reply or not to reply as he wishes; other Knesset members shout and heckle]

So far I have quoted from 'AL HAMISHMAR. I can quote from what MK Shem-Tov himself said. This morning he said: I am not happy about all these things, they are not in keeping with my spirit, I would like us to overthrow Begin in elections, not by combinations. That is what MK Shem-Tov said, he who is sitting here before me. Combinations [last word in English]: Why do you not really try to overthrow my colleagues and I in elections? Why are you making combinations?

Now I want to quote from another wing of the house. A respected professor, MK Yuval Ne'eman, said this morning: If the Likud is the opposition and the Alignment is in power, Peres will not be able to make far-reaching concessions. In other words, the faction of which Yuval Ne'eman is the chairman [Tehiya] wants frankly for Mr Peres to be prime minister and these colleagues will sit in the opposition. Not all of them, that is true, not all. But that is what he wants.

Well, honored Professor Ne'eman, you are, after all, a new Knesset member and I am very experienced. I want to tell you that whoever can demonstrate has an affect. [sentence as heard] Anyone who conducts the affairs of the state in accordance with the voters' decision is the one who decides and you imagine helping a party which says specifically in its program that the territories from Judaea and Samaria are to be handed over to Arab rule, to a state called Palestinian-Jordanian? The decision...remember your deeds.

Knesset member Imri Ron, who is sitting here, said this morning: Instead of conducting an obstinate fight by the Labor movement to change the government, they are dealing with manipulations of government, and expanding the Alignment by the incorporation of RAFI will cause the undermining of its socialist character. Oh, good heavens, its socialism is already about to be undermined by two people who are returning home, to the Alignment. What will happen? What will happen? [Yosi Sarid again heckles and others join in the heckling; the Knesset speaker again reproves Sarid and asks for silence; he calls Sarid to order]

One more quotation. This morning MK Peres said in one of the midday papers that they -- that is, Lynn and Peretz -- are moving over to us for ideological reasons. Did you hear the secret agreement? Ideological reasons! Afterward he added: Moshe Dayan moved over to the Likud and the Cabinet within 3 days. What, can Mr Peres not say one sentence without introducing into it the opposite of the truth? Moshe Dayan moved over to the Likud? I have already told what happened. He asked me if my proposal that he should be foreign minister would hold good if he resigned from the Knesset. I told him, yes, yes. Did we transfer him? We proposed to him, as a man with great prestige among the world's nations, that he serve as foreign minister.

[Increased heckling from Knesset and shouts] Mr Speaker... [shouting continues] Mr Speaker ... [shouting continues and Knesset speaker attempts to silence the Knesset] Mr Speaker... Hayim, Hayim, I am managing so well, why are you helping me? Mr Speaker... [continued shouts and Knesset speaker silences the Knesset] Mr Speaker, I would like to conclude my remarks of reply to the arguments and say the following: Mr Speaker, gentlemen, Knesset members, the government will not fall today; the one who will cause his own downfall today is Shim'on Peres. Thank you.

Motion of No Confidence Rejected

TA191454 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 19 May 82

[Announcement made by Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor at the end of the voting held in the Knesset on the Alignment's motion of no confidence]

[Text] [Savidor] Knesset members, the results of the vote are: 57 Knesset members voted for the motion of no confidence, 58 voted against the motion of no confidence and 3 abstained. The motion of no confidence was not accepted.

[Unidentified correspondent] All the Knesset members are rising from their seats now. The Israeli Government has not fallen. There was a slight majority indeed but a majority of one vote still, thanks to the abstention of Tehiya MK Hanan Porat. It is now said in the Knesset's corridors that this evening already or perhaps tomorrow very intensive negotiations will be conducted for the cooption of Tehiya into the coalition.

The situation regarding Telem is less clear. The harsh criticism Telem MK Yiga'el Hurvitz made from the Knesset's podium gives ground to the thought that Telem's joining the coalition is perhaps uncertain. It is now however said that the chances for Tehiya's joining of the coalition are better. Tehiya MK Hanan Porat was right from the beginning inclined to abstain in today's vote. In the voting held in Tehiya's secretariat last night it was decided the entire faction would vote against the government. However, the Tehiya movement has changed its mind and allowed Hanan Porat to vote freely.

Roll Call Vote

TA191539 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 19 May 82

[Knesset clerk roll call vote on motion of no confidence]

[Text] TAMI MK Aharon Abu-Hatzera -- against [the motion of no confidence]

NRP MK El'ezer Avtabi -- against
Alignment MK Abba Eban -- for
Alignment MK Refa'el 'Edri -- for
TAMI MK Aharon Uzan -- against
Likud MK Ehud Olmert -- against
CRM/Alignment MK Shulamit Aloni -- for
Alignment MK 'Adi Amoray -- for
Alignment MK Macques Amir -- for
Alignment MK Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino -- for
Alignment MK Nava Arad -- for
Likud MK Yoram Aridor -- against
Likud MK Simha Ehrlich -- against
Alignment MK Tamar Eshel -- for
Likud MK Menahem Begin -- against
NRP MK Yosef Burg -- not present
HADASH MK Charlie Biton -- for
Alignment MK Naftali Blumenthal -- for
Likud MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar -- against
Alignment MK Dov Ben-Me'ir -- for
NRP MK Yehuda Ben-Me'ir -- against
Telem MK Mordekhay Ben-Porat -- abstains
Alignment MK Mikha'el Bar-Zohar -- not participating in the vote [is offset with NRP MK Yosef Burg]
Alignment MK Hayim Bar-lev -- for
Alignment MK 'Uzi Bar'am -- for
Likud MK Yitzhaq Berman -- against
Likud MK Pinhas Goldstein -- against
Alignment MK Mordekhay Gur -- for
Alignment MK Ya'aqov Gil -- for
Likud MK Miryam Glazer-Ta'asa -- against
Likud MK Pesah Grupper -- against
Alignment MK Eli'ezer Granot -- for
Likud MK Sara Doron -- against
Likud MK Mikha'el Deqel -- against
NRP MK Hayim Druckman -- against
Telem MK Yiga'el Hurvitz -- abstains
Alignment MK Menahem Hakohen -- for
Alignment MK Shlomo Hilel -- for
Agudat Yisra'el MK Shmu'el Halpert -- against
NRP MK Zvulun Hammer -- against
Alignment MK Aharon Har'el -- for

Alignment MK Hayim Herzog -- for
Alignment MK Shevah Weiss -- for
HADASH MK Me'ir Wilner -- for
Shinuy MK Mordekhay Virshubsky -- for
Alignment MK Muhammad Watad -- for
HADASH MK Tawfiq Zayyad -- for
Likud MK Yitzhaq Ziger -- against
Likud MK Dror Zeigerman -- against
Alignment MK Yehezqel Zakay -- for
Alignment MK Dov Zakin -- for
Alignment MK Hamad Khalaylah -- for
Alignment MK Mikha'el Harish -- for
Alignment MK Yehuda Hashay -- for
HADASH MK Tawfiq Tubi -- for
Alignment MK Gad Ya'aqobi -- for
Tehiya MK Ge'ula Kohen -- for
Likud MK Yiga'el Kohen -- against
Likud MK Me'ir Kohen -- against
Likud MK Yig'al Kohen-Orgad -- against
Alignment MK Avraham Katz-'oz -- for
Likud MK Eytan Livni -- against
Likud MK David Levi -- against
Agudat Yisra'el MK Shlomo Lorincz -- against
Alignment MK Amnon Linn -- for
Likud MK David Magen -- against
Likud MK Yitzhaq Moda'i -- against
Likud MK Roni Milo -- against
NRP MK Avraham Melamed -- against
Likud MK Ya'aqov Meridor -- against
Alignment MK Yeruham Meshel -- for
Tehiya MK Yuval Ne'eman -- for
Likud MK 'Aqiva Nof -- against
Alignment MK Aharon Refa'el Nahmias -- for
Alignment MK Arye Nehamkin -- for
Alignment MK Ora Namir -- for
Likud MK Moshe Nisim -- against
Likud MK Amal Nasir ad-Din -- against
Alignment MK Ra'anan Na'im -- for
Alignment MK Uri Sabag -- for
Likud MK Menahem Savidor -- against
Alignment MK Refa'el Suissa -- for
Alignment MK 'Edna Solodar -- for
Alignment MK Naftali Feder -- for
Tehiya MK Hanan Porat -- abstains
Likud MK Yehuda Perah -- against
Alignment MK Shim'on Peres -- for
Alignment MK Yitzhaq Peretz -- for
Likud MK Gid'on Pat -- against
Alignment MK Ya'ir Tzaban -- for
Alignment MK Ya'aqov Tzur -- for
Likud MK Mordekhay Tzipori -- against
Likud MK El'ezer Kolas -- against
Likud MK Hayim Kaufman -- against
Likud MK Hayim Corfu -- against
Likud MK Mikha'el Kleiner -- against
Likud MK Moshe Qatzav -- against
Alignment MK Yitzhaq Rabin -- for
TAMI MK Ben-Tziyon Rubin -- against
Shinuy MK Amnon Rubinstein -- for
Alignment MK Dani Rosolio -- for
Likud MK Yosef Rom -- against
Alignment MK Imri Ron -- for
Likud MK Mikha'el Reiser -- against

Likud MK Tzvi Rener -- against

Likud MK Eli'ezer Shostak -- against

Alignment MK Moshe Shahal -- for

Likud MK Me'ir Shitrit -- against

Likud MK Dov Shilansky -- against

Likud MK David Shifman -- against

Likud MK Beni Shalita -- against

Alignment MK Victor Shem-Tov -- for

Likud MK Yitzhaq Shamir -- against

Alignment MK Eliyahu Speiser -- for

Agudat Yisra'el Avraham Yosef Shapira -- against

Likud MK Ari'el Sharon -- against

Alignment MK Yosi Sarid -- for

Likud MK Avraham Sharir -- against

Likud MK Dan Tikhom -- against

Agudat Yisra'el MK Menahem Proush -- against

Porat's Abstension Explained

TA191616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports it was a special Tehiya team including Knesset members and central personalities from the movement that decided, about 1 hour before the vote, to allow MK Hanan Porat to abstain. Since yesterday the most pressure was put on him by members of Gush Emunim and the heads of the settlements in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District not to cause the downfall of the government. Our correspondent points out that if MK Melamed had voted against government, MK Porat would also have done the same.

Begin Comments on Vote

TA191509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Following the Knesset's vote the prime minister said Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has begun ending his career as of today. Upon leaving the Knesset building Menahem Begin said that had MK Peres succeeded in the exercise behind the cooption of Knesset Members Amnon Linn and Yitzhaq Peretz into the Alignment Peres would have still been forgiven for the dirty trick, as Begin put it, that he did. However, now that he has failed, the prime minister said, he will not be forgiven by his Labor Party colleagues.

Peres Comments on Vote

TA191653 Tel Aviv Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 19 May 82

[Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres interviewed in the Knesset by unidentified correspondent — recorded]

[Question] MK Peres, did the Alignment fail today to obtain its objective in the Knesset?

[Answer] No. Its objective was to raise the economic issue and we did raise it. I said in my faction that I did not expect that this time we would win in the vote of no confidence. In contrast to this we had 58 votes today [as heard] with one of our members abstaining because of the reciprocal agreement with Dr Burg. The government did not have a simple majority. Altogether it received 58 votes and I am satisfied with the results.

[Question] In view of these results, that did not lead to the downfall of the government, do you think the effort invested in getting two Knesset members from the Likud to join the Alignment was worthwhile?

[Answer] There is no connection whatsoever between getting the two members to join the Alignment and the vote of no confidence. We decided on the no confidence motion at the end of last week and the talks with the two members were conducted at the same time, but not in connection with the no confidence vote.

[Question] The nature of the transfer of these two members, does it not seem to you that, nevertheless, it had in it some sort of unpleasant taste also in view of what has been said by members of your faction?

[Answer] No unpleasant taste. Yitzhaq Peretz was offered the position of deputy minister in the current government. Kalantarism is when people move over from an opposition to a coalition in return for a portfolio, but when they give up a portfolio in a coalition and move over to the opposition, it shows that people are concerned by more serious issues than just themselves.

[Question] Mr Peres, today the prime minister said the Alignment had two agreements with MK Peretz, one whose details have been made public and one that is secret. Can you confirm or deny this?

[Answer] The prime minister is a great expert in things about which he has no knowledge. The two agreements will be placed on the Labor Party bureau's table under the eyes of all the members. Altogether, when making up an Alignment -- or a Likud -- did the prime minister not promise the Liberals 18 seats, or a certain proportion? That is natural, it is done out in the open and there is nothing secret here.

[Question] Why was there a need for two agreements with MK Peretz?

[Answer] One agreement involved the issues of principle; the second agreement involved organizational issues.

[Question] And you say the two of them will be made public in full?

[Answer] They have both been made public. It is not a question of making them public in the future. I said they will both be placed on the bureau's table.

[Question] Mr Peres, one last question: Will, in your opinion, the Alignment be able to establish -- to overthrow the Likud government and try to establish a government of its own and when?

[Answer] My dear friend, I do not go in for predictions.

[Question] Thank you very much.

SHARON PROMISES TO TEHIYA FACTION REPORTED

TA191704 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The prime minister agreed to speak with the Tehiya faction about its demands in Judaea and Samaria, but he explained he would only do this after today's voting. In contacts held with Sharon and other representatives, the Tehiya representatives demanded that Jerusalem not be an issue for discussion in any negotiations; that it should be determined in the government's basic guidelines that the land and water in Judaea and Samaria will be only under Israel's control; that legal status should be granted to the settlements and that they should be given the status of A-plus development zones and the speed of construction should be accelerated. The defense minister guaranteed that in the next 3 years construction would be approved to settle 100,000 Israelis, but the Tehiya members said they did not believe the promises. They also pointed out they would support the government on all sorts of matters, but would not, for the moment, join the coalition.

PERETZ ATTACKED; LINN RECEIVES POLICE PROTECTION

TA191310 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] In an apparent reaction to his defection to the Alignment, Knesset member Yitzhaq Peretz was attacked last night at a Jerusalem hotel where he was staying. During the night the police also posted a bodyguard at the hotel room of Knesset member Amnon Linn. Earlier, Linn had received a number of threatening phone calls.

PRESS COMMENTS ON KNESSET NO CONFIDENCE VOTE

TA200747 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 20 May 82

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] HA'ARETZ says that in spite of the government coalition's stability it would be correct to state that the current situation, with its narrow basis, is fundamentally unhealthy and, moreover, it rewards the blackmail exercised by Agudat Yisra'el and TAMI. Mr Begin's desire to hold early elections is justified, and it is totally irrelevant whether it stems from his aspiration to increase the Likud's strength or whether this move ultimately fails. A government which has to contemplate its death each month anew and which needs the support of a handful of abstentions will find it difficult to operate normally.

HAMODIA' writes that although the Alignment's trick yesterday did not succeed and the government survived the no-confidence motion, the vote proved that the coaltion government is currently formed by a minority. It does not include more than 59 supporters, whereas the opposition has 61 votes. The prime minister should immediately exhaust all the possibilities to conclude the talks with the two Telam Knesset members and incorporate them into the coalition framework; and, perhaps, it should follow the same course with the Tehiya representatives in order for the government to regain a majority, even if only a narrow one. Otherwise, the government will not be able to function for long and there will be no other choice but to hold early elections.

DAVAR says the unrestrained language used by Menahem Begin, Yoram Aridor and other Likud speakers yesterday was not directed at their fellow Knesset members but directly at the electorate, in an attempt to undermine the public image of the opposition leaders. This style did not attest to a solid moral position, but to a fear of defeat. The violent denunciation of the Alignment did not succeed in covering its inability to defend the Likud's mishaps. The prime minister's selective use of facts in his speech -- as the paper phrases it -- does not not change them.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that Mr Begin's promise to the Tehiya to enhance the national positions and to continue to exacerbate the policy in the territories will not help his government survive upcoming tests. The unrest within the Likud, especially within the Liberal Party, is growing, and larger sections of the population are holding the government in contempt. In yesterday's vote, the government was also spared collapse by a sole vote. Still, even if it manages to recover seven times it will collapse on the eighth round.

The Jerusalem POST reacts to reports that Mr Peres will suggest that the Alignment adopt Moshe Dayan's idea of unilateral autonomy for the Palestinians in return for Telam's backing. As the paper phrases it, such indiscriminate swallowing of foreign party planks might broaden the Alignment's coaltion prospects -- and coalition building is admittedly the main practical problem in Israeli politics -- but it could also lower the Alignment in the eyes of the Israeli electorate.

AL-ANBA' writes that some people were probably satisfied and sighed in relief following the vote in the Knesset. However, most of the nation was ashamed and offended at the level and style of the debate and the manipulations preceding it.

BEGIN DISCUSSES PALESTINIAN ISSUE WITH EUROPEANS

TA191627 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 May 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by Yehoshu'a Bitzur]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday told the Political Committee of the Council of Europe meeting in Jerusalem that "the Jordanians are doing their best to prevent the terrorists from besetting us with acts of terror. When the Jordanians spot terrorist squads, they prevent them from carrying out their activities and they have closed the Jordanian border to them."

Replying to a question about relations between Israel and Jordan, the prime minister nevertheless added: "We have tried to establish contacts with Jordan and Moshe Dayan met at the time with King Husayn but the latter said he would not give up even an inch of land."

In the presence of representatives of 21 free parliaments of Europe, the prime minister categorically rejected the idea of establishing a Palestinian state, since it would endanger the very existence of Israel. "Instead of that," he said "we are ready to accord broad autonomy, such as there is in no other place in the whole world, to the Palestinians. This kind of autonomy was given neither to the Flemish and the Walloonians in Belgium, to the Basques and Corsicans in France; nor even the south Tyroleans to the southern Tyrol in Italy. We want peaceful coexistence with the Arabs in the territories within the framework of the autonomy."

The prime minister explained the danger facing Israel in the north and in the east: Israel's enemies possess 11,400 tanks, 9,100 cannons and 1,980 aircraft -- all these weapons would be concentrated behind a Palestinian state, if it is established. It would soon serve as a Soviet base which would endanger the whole region. The prime minister added: Yes, to the autonomy; no, to a state.

Mr Begin went on to say: "We undertook a great risk by evacuating the Sinai, which gave us great strategic operating space. However, this was a calculated risk since we want peace."

Replying to questions, the prime minister said: The Palestinians have the right to demand the establishment of a state after 5 years of autonomy. However, we will insist that the Palestinians have autonomy under our sovereignty where they will lead their life as they wish.

Addressing the British representatives, Begin said: A nation involved now in a war 13,000 km away should not condemn a small country fighting for its existence within its own borders.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told the committee he is convinced this is a good time for peace in the Middle East. He emphasized that the Alignment is opposed to negotiations with the PLO and added: "No member of the Labor Party will agree to give back any territory, unless its demilitarization is guaranteed. This would be impossible in a Palestinian state and, therefore, we are against it." Replying to a question, Peres said: The gap between us and Jordan is still deep and broad in various areas. Hence, we believe that one should start with an interim solution. We have learned that the step-by-step method has many political advantages.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE MEETING CONCLUDES

TA191855 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The Political Committee of the 21-nation Council of Europe held its final working session today in Jerusalem. The committee drafted a statement emphasizing its faith in a negotiated settlement to the Falklands crisis.

Committee members also discussed relations with Turkey and Japan and San Marino's request for observer status on the council. Earlier, committee chairman Tom (Irwin) of Great Britain took issue with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's claim that they had shown courage in standing by their decision to come to Jerusalem. This afternoon (Irwin) explained to Qol Yisra'el's 'Oded Ben-'Ami what his reply to Shamir meant.

[Begin recording] [(Irwin)] Well, I think it's public knowledge that there were pressures brought to bear to try to prevent the meeting taking place here in Israel. This was understandable, having regard to the unrest that exists in the region. I am sure that the gist of the opposition, the tenets advanced by the opposition to the visit, that such a visit would be interpreted in political terms as agreement with the policies pursued by the Israeli Government, and that, of course, is absolutely wide of the mark; indeed, it is totally untrue to suggest that there's any form of political importance attached to this particular meeting here in Jerusalem. After all, we meet at least once every year in a country outside Strasbourg and France, so we didn't view it in the same way as having political importance as the opponents to the decision certainly did. This was initially the attitude that they adopted. It didn't take courage, as the foreign minister said, though I am indebted to him for having put it in that way. After all, we pride ourselves on being elected representatives of democratic countries in Europe.

[Ben-'Ami] Was it a fruitful and successful visit here?

[Irwin] Well, so far as the work of the committee is concerned, we've had our usual fruitful meeting. We always have differences of opinion about different subjects, as I say. Majority decisions are taking and binding on everybody else. In that sense, the meeting has been no different to any other at all. It's the same sort of meeting as we would have had in Paris or in Strasbourg or in London or in any other capital in any of the member states of the Council of Europe.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Tonight the committee will attend a dinner given in their honor by Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor and tomorrow they will meet with President Yitzhaq Navon and tour the country before returning home on Friday morning.

BEGIN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY HAIG

TA191627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Today the prime minister recieved the reply by the U.S. secretary of state to the message he sent to him a few days ago. The answers were brought by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer has learned that in his message Mr Begin told Secretary of State Haig about Sunday's Cabinet decision about the situation on the northern border. He emphasized that Israel's restraint depended on the cessation of the terrorists' hostile actions from all sectors, not only from Lebanon. Israel, the prime minister wrote, would keep a watch over what was occurring and if the terrorists were to violate the cease-fire, it would not longer show restraint. Your correspondent has been told that in the U.S. secretary of state's reply there is understanding for Israel's position. He praises the restraint with which Israel is actin. He also mentions that a senior official in his department, Morris Draper, is due to come to the area and work to improve the situation on the border with Lebanon.

ANTITANK MINES DISCOVERED NEAR MARJ 'UYUN

TA200716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] A patrol of [Major Sa'd Hadda's] militia discovered two antitank mines on the patrol path near Marj 'Uyun. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports the path is used daily. The militia bomb experts assume the mines were planted by a terrorist squad last night after it crossed the lines near the An-Nabatiyah Plateau. The tracks of the terrorists are now being followed.

ALGERIA

MITTERRAND STOPS IN ALGIERS AT START OF TOUR

LD191116 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Algiers this morning. He was welcomed at the airport by FLN Secretary General and President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid and Brothers Rabih Bitat, speaker of the National Assembly, and Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, foreign minister.

Mitterrand and Bendjedid will hold talks in camera this morning. Mitterrand will leave this afternoon for Niger on the first leg of his tour of a number of African countries.

Talks With Bendjedid, Departs

LD192104 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] President Francois Mitterrand of France left Algiers this afternoon after a short visit during which he had talks with Brother President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party, who welcomed him and saw him off at the Houari Boumediene International Airport.

The first round of talks was held just after the French president's arrival in Algiers this morning at a private meeting between Brother President Chadli Bendjedid and President Francois Mitterrand. These talks were concluded in the afternoon after a banquet given by Brother Chadli Bendjedid in honor of the French president and the delegation accompanying him, in the presence of the chairman of the National People's Assembly and a number of Cabinet members and senior officials.

While the talks took place between the two presidents, talks were also held between members of the French delegation and Algerian officials.

Before leaving Algiers for Niger, the first stage of his tour to a number of African countries, the French president issued a press statement in which he expressed his satisfaction with the talks he had with Brother President Chadli Bendjedid, stressing that they were extremely useful and covered bilateral Algerian-French relations in addition to a number of international issues, including urgent issues at the African level, and also questions pertaining to North-South relations.

The French president said the purpose of his brief visit to Algiers was decided last December during his official visit to Algeria.

SUDAN

EGYPT'S ABU GHAZALAH ON MILITARY INTEGRATION

JN191839 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Khartoum, 19 May (SUNA) -- After receiving the Al-Jumhuriyah Medal, First Class from President Muhammad Ja'far Numayri this morning, Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian minister of defense and war production, expressed extreme happiness. In a statement to the press, he said he will carry this medal with honor for the rest of his life and that he will defend it with his blood. He thanked the president of the republic for his generosity in bestowing this medal on him.

Answering a question on his visit to Sudan and his meeting with President Numayri, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said President Numayri asked him to begin immediate implementation of military integration of the armed forces of the two countries to provide security for Egypt and Sudan. He said several Sudanese officers will visit Egypt soon to study standardizing terminology and unifying programs in the two countries' military institutions. He added that the military integration is proceeding with firm, practical and quick steps.

Answering a question on the moves of the big strategic powers and their agents in the Arab region and their designs which are aimed at the security of Sudan and Egypt, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the two countries are bound by the Arab joint defense pact. We are implementing all aspects of this agreement and we are ready to go ever farther. He stressed that any threat to Sudan is a threat to Egypt and any threat to Egypt is a threat Sudan and that a danger to one is a danger to the other. Sudan and Egypt are a strategic depth which cannot be divided.

On the moves by some forces in the Arab region and their call to Egypt to abandon the Camp David accords, especially after Israel's withdrawl from the Sinai, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah stressed Egypt's commitment to the Camp David accords. He said Egypt will work to complete steps that will guarantee the return of the Palestinian people's rights. He added that Egypt's policy is constant and does not change, regardless of the circumstances.

Answering a question on the formation of a joint Arab force, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah expressed hope that the Arab nation will be able to heal the rift and close its ranks. He added: Then we can have a joint Arab force. He said Sudan and Egypt are the heart of the Arab nation and believe in Arab nationalism and solidarity to face the threats surrounding the Arab nation.

VICE PRESIDENT AT-TAYYIB CALLS FOR ARAB SUMMIT

NC192310 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA) -- Sudanese First Vice President Maj Gen 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib has called for an Arab summit conference to discuss the Arab problems, above all the liberation of the rest of the occupied Arab territories, the achievement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the firm confrontation of the challenges facing the Arabs. He said that following the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai, there is nothing to prevent the convening of such a conference.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper AL-AKHBAR, to be published in its Thursday edition, the Sudanese first vice president said President Husni Mubarak is prepared to meet with his Arab brothers and is the first to support such a reunion.

The Sudanese first vice president also said Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri is intensifying his efforts to marshal the Arab ranks. He added that Sudan is qualified to play such a role. Sudan is holding serious contacts with the Arab capitals with a view to convening as soon as possible an Arab summit conference that would be attended by Egypt and in which the Arabs would talk as brothers joined by common objectives. He expressed hope that such a conference will be held soon, indicating that positive statements have been coming from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Morocco and Jordan -- all aspiring for this day on which the Arabs will meet.

Concerning Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the Sudanese first vice president said that two countries are joined by relations that have been baptized by common blood for thousands of years and have been strengthened by common historic and geographic considerations. These relations have now reached their zenith and have acquaired their own special traits. He added that in the near future the Nile Valley state [union of Egypt and Sudan] will become a great power in various spheres.

The Sudanese official praised President Husni Mubarak and his role on the domestic and Arab levels.

Answering a question on the domestic situation in Sudan, the Sudanese first vice president, who is also head of the state security department, said that the security situation in Sudan is good although there are provocations by enemies at home and abroad.

The Sudanese official expressed regret for the continuous Libyan plotting against Sudan, as well as for the existence of such problems between two Arab countries.

Concerning Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, the Sudanese first vice president said there are no problems between the two countries other than the Eritrean problem. He affirmed the need to solve this problem because it has security, economic, political and social repercussions for Sudan.

TUNISIA

AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE RECALLED AS 'FIRST STEP

LD192002 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba has received with great regret the news that the Zaire Government has decided to resume diplomatic relations with Israel and that it intends to establish its embassy in occupied Jerusalem.

The Tunisian Government believes this action violates the resolutions of the Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement and the spirit of solidarity on which unwritten agreement was reached between the Arab and African states regulating relations between the two sides on the basis of complete support for common fateful issues.

In view of the seriousness of the situation resulting from the Zaire Government's decision, the Tunisian Government has contacted this government to draw its attention to the consequences of the situation and its effects on the Zaire Government's relations with Arab and Islamic states and on Afro-Arab solidarity.

Meanwhile, the Tunisian Government has decided as a first step to recall its ambassador to Zaire and to keep him in Tunis for consultation.

National Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Mas'adi delivered a speech at the end of this morning's assembly, which complement similar moves in other Arab national assemblies concerning the Political Committee of the Council of Europe parliamentary assembly, which is meeting in occupied Jerusalem at the invitation of the Israeli Knesset, produced some good results. Quite a few members of this committee have now decided not to attend the meeting -- parliamentarians from Spain, Greece, Portugal and France.

The National Assembly speaker lauded the attitude of these members of parliament and their countries for responding to good political ethics and for complying with the international forum resolutions. He also denounced the attitudes of the remaining European parliamentarians, and in the name of the National Assembly, strongly condemned the stands of Costa Rica and Zaire for adopting an attitude which in no way serves the causes of justice and right but lends political support to aggression, oppression and force on which the State of Israel was created and on which it lives today.

CHAD

DJIDINGAR DONO NGARDOUM NAMED PRIME MINISTER

AB191451 Paris AFP in French 1423 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 19 May (AFP) -- Djidingar Dono Ngardoum was officially named prime minister of Chad on Wednesday by Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government, after he was nominated by the Council of State.

The new prime minister was minister of public works, posts and telecommunications and agriculture in the government of former President Tombalbaye.

The position of prime minister, which did not exist until just recently, was created by the "Ndjamena Declaration" of 8 May 1982.

According to the Ndjamena Declaration, Mr Djidignar will have responsibility for putting together a new ministerial team.

Before his nomination, Mr Djidingar was living in his native village of Donomango where he had been mayor since the military coup of 13 April 1975 that overthrew President Tombalbaye.

Recently he had founded a political party, "the Rally for Unity and Democracy in Chad" (RUDT), which has members from both the north and the south.

The nomination of Mr Djidingar comes after a week of argument between the presidency of the Transitional National Union Government, the Council of State and the different political-military factions in Chad, it is stressed by observers in Ndjamena.

ZAIRE

GOVERNMENT RECALLS 141 DIPLOMATIC CORPS MEMBERS

AB191648 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Kinshasa, 19 May (AFP) -- The Zairian Government is recalling 141 members of its diplomatic corps abroad as part of austerity measures announced last weekend by President Mobutu Sese Seko.

The Foreign Ministry here said today that the diplomats and their families -- some 500 people in all -- must be back home by the end of June.

GHANA

PNDC MEMBER: PEOPLE'S TRIBUNALS TO BE SET UP

AB190904 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] People's tribunals will soon be set up throughout the country to try those who have committed crimes against the state. The membership will comprise soldiers, lawyers and representation from the people. This was disclosed by a member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Mr Amartey Kwei, when he formally opened a new market at Alajo in Accra.

According to him, the big men who indulged in kalabule [profiteering] have now been defeated, but some workers are indulging in tricks which are bringing hardships to their colleagues. Mr Kwei noted that consumer items produced in the country can satisfy the need of everybody if fairly distributed. But some workers always queue for these items only to resell them, making conditions worse than they were before 31 December. Mr Kwei urged marketwomen not to sell at exhorbitant prices. This is because their contribution to the success of the revolution lies in their selling their wares at reasonable prices to make life bearable for their neighbors. Mr Kwei declared: "Kalabule will have to be eliminated at cost from the Ghanaian society by the end of the year." He rejected the contention that the revolution has lost its momentum and pointed out that it is the duty of all Ghanaians to make it succeed.

The chairman of the Alajo people's defense committee, Mr Odoi, warned that if the women do not adhere to regulations on sales it will take over the market to run it in the interest of the people.

GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER DIAMOND CORPORATION

AB192015 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 May 82

[Exceprt] The Ghana Government is to become the sole shareholder in the Ghana Consolidated Diamonds Corporation from the first of next month. In an interview with the GHANA NEWS AGENCY, the Provisional National Defense Council secretary for lands and natural resources, Mr Kwesi Renner, said the diamond industry had been beset with problems and has had to live on borrowed money. Furthermore, rising operation costs, low world prices and diminished reserves have weighed the industry down.

NIGER

MITTERRAND ARRIVES IN NIAMEY ON OFFICIAL VISIT

AB192035 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 19 May 82

[Excerpts] The French head of state, Francois Mitterrand, arrived in Niamey this afternoon for a 3-day official visit to our country. Francois Mitterrand and his wife, Danielle Mitterrand, were welcomed by the chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, Col Seyni Kountche and his wife, Mintou Kountche. After listening to the national anthems of France and Niger, the two heads of state reviewed the guard before meeting the members of Supreme Military Council and government as well as members of the constituted bodies. From the airport to the presidential palace, thousands and thousands of people gave a brotherly welcome worthy of the legendary hospitality of the Niger people to the French leader.

At the presidential palace President Francois Mitterrand made a statement. He defined the significance of his visit to Niger.

[Begin Mitterrand recording] Ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to be in Niger this evening. This visit was prepared some time ago. During President Kountche's visit to Paris I said Niger would probably be one of the first stops in my visit to Black Africa, and it is in fact the first. No doubt I will be visiting other countries. The personal ties I have had with Niger for several decades, the simple and friendly relations between our two countries, relations that have been created since I became president of the republic, relations with the Kountche government and the main Niger authorities, and the seriousness with which the government has been dealing with the affairs of the country all give a true meaning to my visit to Niger.

We will have the opportunity during these 2 days to discuss many issues. We will, first of all, discuss bilateral relations, problems concerning development in Africa in general and development in Niger in particular. We will also examine the geographical and political environment of this country. These discussions, as usual, will be held in an atmosphere of trust. I must say without exaggeration that the friendship between us is a living one and in this atmosphere all things are possible.

I am, in any case, [words indistinct] to observe the Niger people whom I thank for the warm welcome they and President Kountche have given me. It is a great pleasure for me to be here in Niger in his company. [end recording]

NIGERIA

BILL SEEKS TO RENEW RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

AB191532 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] A motion seeking the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Nigeria and Israel has been tabled before the National Assembly. Sponsored by Representative E.C. Ebo, NPP [Nigerian People's Party], Imo State, and 105 other legislators, it called on President Shehu Shagari to do everything within his power to persuade all other OAU member states to normalize relations with Israel at their earliest convenience. Debate on the motion was, however, suspended to enable the Rules and Business Committee of the house to get the signatures of the sponsors of the motion.

ZAIRE'S RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL NO SURPRISE

AB191352 Lagos International Service in English 1130 GMT 19 May 82

[Dayo Adeyeye commentary]

[Text] The announcement that Zaire was to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel came not as a surprise to ardent observers of African affairs. Recently, the Zairian president, Mobutu Sese Seko, had indicated that if Israel pushes on with the final withdrawal as scheduled, the question of reestablishing diplomatic relations with the Jewish state would not pose a serious problem. Following the successful completion of the Sinai withdrawal on 25 April, observers had expected the announcement. The Zairian decision has, as expected, attracted a lot of comment and reaction in and outside Africa. While some have praised the courage of the Zairian authorities in taking the action, others have unreservedly condemned it. Some people have attributed the Zairian move to American pressures on the Zairian regime as against economic and financial difficulties which have reached a critical state.

Zaire's external debt currently stands at over $2.5 billion. The economy has worsened to such an extent that last year the IMF and Zaire's other foreign creditors took a drastic step to oversee the running of Zaire's Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry -- an action that seriously infringes on the country's sovereignty. It would not be entirely out of place, therefore, to speculate that the action was taken in order to attract much-needed foreign aid to lessen the present economic difficulty. Whatever was the objective, there is no doubt that the Zairian decision directly contradicts the OAU's resolution on the issue. The decision to sever diplomatic relations with Israel was a collective African one made in sympathy with the Arab nation following the 1967 6-day war. Zaire, by her unilateral action, has gone against the collective wishes of the African people. One would have expected the Zairian authorities to bring the issue before the OAU before taking such a far-reaching decision. The action shows a lack of respect for the OAU's resolution [words indistinct].

The reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Israel and the invitation of the Israeli leaders to visit Zaire is tantamount to approval of Israel's actions and policies in the Middle East. The Zairian action will not only encourage the Israeli authorities to become more intransigent on the vexed issues of the occupied Arab lands and Palestinian autonomy talks; it will also seriously threaten Afro-Arab unity. And it is in this respect of Afro-Arab unity that the protagonists of African relations with Israel have to take caution. Zaire's major arguments for the reestablishment of diplomatic ties with Israel are that since Egypt, in whose sympathy Africa broke relations with Israel, has since reestablished diplomatic relations with her, it would be stupid and naive for Africa to continue to boycott the Jewish state. There is also the argument that the Arab nations have not demonstrated a similar spirit of commitment to the African struggle against apartheid. Israel is currently fueling the rumor that certain Arab countries trade with South Africa. More importantly, however, is the argument that Africa stands to benefit economically and technologically from the reestablishment of relations with Israel. While the economic argument seems reasonable, the other arguments lack merit. Africa did not break relations with Israel in sympathy with Egypt alone but with the whole of the Arab world. It would therefore be illogical for African countries to resume diplomatic relations with Israel on account of Egypt alone. Also, there is as yet no concrete evidence on the alleged Arab relations with the racist African regime.

What is of paramount importance now is the continued Afro-Arab unity and solidarity which, so far, has been of tremendous mutual benefit to both sides. This, no doubt, the enemies of Africa would like to destroy and they will do so by listening to vulnerable and reactionary African regimes. Africa, more than ever before, now needs unity. Unilateral action in disregard of the collective decision will not serve the (?cause) of this unity.

SENEGAMBIA

PRESIDENT ABDOUF DIOUF ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

LD192204 Paris Domestic Service in French 1720 GMT 19 May 82

[Interview with President Abdou Diouf on "Facing the Public" program with unidentified moderator -- date not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr President, you are a socialist, and France has also been socialist for a year now -- it has a leftist government. Has this changed relations between Dakar and Paris?

[Answer] Relations between Dakar and Paris have always been excellent; we are always spoken of privileged cooperation, but the fact that the two countries are led by socialist governments certainly has an impact on the quality of this cooperation, and we can say that since Francois Mitterrand has been leading France, new life has been breathed into this cooperation between France and Senegal.

[Question] What do you expect precisely from the improvement of relations between you and the French president?

[Answer] At the moment we need France to continue its normal aid to Senegal through the central fund, through technical assistance, and so forth. But we also want France to give us substantial special aid, because at the moment we are facing major economic difficulties and we need more special aid from France to face them.

We also need France to plead our case with other friendly industrial countries, and with international financial bodies such as the IMF, which, it must be admitted, do not always understand the problems of our countries and the constraints we face. This is why we think understanding between the two governments, between the two heads of state in particular, should enable us to secure these various results upon which Senegal is counting.

[Question] Does the United States have a particular responsibility?

[Answer] It seems to me that the United States does not have the open and benevolent attitude that it could have toward problems of this kind, as was shown by the recent meeting held in Helsinki, and as we also saw in the difficulty of reallocating resources of the International Development Association where the United States was behind the other countries.

Here again I do not want to criticize a friendly country. I take the opportunity to say we have good bilateral cooperation with the United States, but you asked me a question and I replied.

[Question] There is cause for concern for the African region, since we do not even know whether the OAU meeting in July will take place, and the king of Morocco stated his anxiety on this topic in a recent "Facing the Public" program. This week, too, with Zaire's recognition of the State of Israel, which will again divide Africans, is there not a sort of incoherence here as well, the impossibility of finding a common path for Africans?

[Answer] Yes, this is also my point of view. There was already a split on one issue, that of the Sahara, and I expressed publicly the fear that the OAU meeting in Tripoli might not be held. Now a new issue has emerged, the problem of Israel and its relations with Africa with the gesture just made by Zaire. I take this opportunity, moreover, to say that for Senegal there is no question of following this example, and that for us, so long as the basis of the problem is not solved, we will not renew our relations with Israel.

[Question] I would like to ask you: Will you attend the OAU summit which is to be held in Tripoli in July, if it is still held in Tripoli?

[Answer] I do not expect to go to the Tripoli summit which the problem of the SDAR, the so-called SDAR, remains unresolved. I do not expect to sit at the same table as the SDAR delegation, because I consider its admission illegal, illegitimate and politically improper.

[Question] How do you intend to get out of the impasse, Mr President? Will it be by holding an extraordinary OAU summit, which you seemed to envisage at one time?

[Answer] I did propose it, but there is very little chance of it happening, because we would need two-thirds of the member states to accept such an extraordinary summit. There is another solution. Mr al-Qadhdhafi and Mr Arap Moi, current chairman of the OAU, could make a solemn declaration assuring the heads of state of the SDAR's nonparticipation at the Tripoli summit, then we could go to Tripoli so as not to complete the break-up of the OAU.

I think Col al-Qadhdhafi is an intelligent man, and that certainly he will do everything possible to save the Tripoli summit. I do not believe in a basic change on his part, but I believe there will be a tactical change which will enable the OAU summit to be saved and to ensure him the current chairmanship of this body for a year. In any case I am ready with many African heads of state to join in all efforts which can be made to save this OAU summit.

[Question] Mr President, a topical question which is a bit more urgent: It is frequently said that in the Malvinas conflict Senegal has taken a stand for the British and that British planes are using Senegalese air facilities to refuel and to head for the Malvinas. I would like to ask you why you have taken the British side, when pratically all the Third World countries have taken a stand on Argentina's side.

[Answer] Are you sure all the Third World countries have taken a stand on Argentina's side?

[Question] Practically...

[Answer] I am not sure. I am not even sure if a majority of Third World countries have taken the Argentine side. And in any case, Senegal has taken no one's side. Senegal considers that on the basic issue there must be negotiations. We did not approve the method used by Argentina to assert its case and, bearing in mind the relations which we have with Great Britain, in particular within the EEC, we responded favorably to a request for overflight and landing by the British Air Force, but this in no way prejudges our position on the basis of the problem, which remains in its entirety, and I think this position is, moreover, fairly close to your country's position.

[Question] What is your analysis of this conflict? Is it a rather archaic conflict, or like some people say, is it the forerunner of future confrontations between medium-sized powers for economic and strategic control of the seas?

[Answer] I do not think it is a conflict which presages important confrontations. I do not think so. I sincerely think it is a conflict on the basis of principles -- there has been misunderstanding on both sides. It is a conflict that I discovered myself, that I did not know about, quite frankly, until Argentina occupied the islands in question, and I think with a little good will, with the efforts underway within the international community, we should manage to curb this conflict and find a satisfactory solution within the shortest possible time.

[Question] There is another problem nearer to you, and which you tried to take part in solving, namely the Chad issue. On 30 June the inter-African intervention force is to withdraw, I believe. How do you see the development of the situation in Chad?

[Answer] Listen, we sincerely hope Africa can find the means to maintain the troops of the inter-African force in Chad until there is a final solution of this problem, a solution, which it must be recognized, cannot happen without a national reconciliation. Without national reconciliation no solution will be possible in Chad.

ANGOLA

CSSR'S VASIL BILAK CONCLUDES 2-DAY VISIT

AB191142 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] delegation led by Vasil Bilak left Luanda this morning for home after a 2-day visit to Angola. Bilak, member of the Presidium, held talks yesterday with a delegation of the MPLA-Labor Party led by Lucio Lara. They exchanged views on internal matters of both countries, on the organization of both parties and governments and on the international situation. Yesterday afternoon the CPCZ delegation held talks with the Czechoslovak community resident in Luanda and visited offices of the armed forces.

The day before yesterday, Bilak was recieved in audience by Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the republic, to whom he delivered a message from Czechoslovak head of state Gustav Husak.

MALAWI

TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER RESIGNS

CA191716 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] His Excellency the life President Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda has accepted the resignation from the Cabinet of Mr Elson Bakili Muluzi with effect from today. A spokesman of the office of the president in Lilongwe said Mr Muluzi has resigned on personal grounds. The spokesman said, consequently in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Constitution, his excellency the life president is now responsible for the portfolio of transport and communications.

NAMIBIA

DYA'S MUDGE OPPOSES 'CONCESSIONS' TO SWAPO

LD192246 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The chairman of the Ministers' Council of South-West Africa/Namibia, Mr Dirk Mudge, says that if the Western countries make further far-reaching concessions to SWAPO on a settlement in South-West Africa/Namibia, further cooperation with the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance [DTA] cannot be expected. In an interview in Windhoek, Mr Mudge said that if further concessions were made to the demands of SWAPO this would mean the parties which were trying to cooperate were being totally ignored. In view of this he wanted to repeat his (?warning that) the DTA would probably have to consider working for a democratic independence solution for the territory without the Western countries of SWAPO. Mr Mudge said the people of South-West Africa/Namibia were tired of the delays in the independence process. He challenged SWAPO to accept an election under the western proposals, if indeed SWAPO had the support in the territory which it claimed to have.

SOUTH AFRICA

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL FIRST REPORT ADOPTED

MB191229 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] The first report of the constitutional committee of the President's Council has been adopted with two dissenting votes. The two members who voted against the report were an Indian member, Dr G. Mohamed, and Mr Fanie Herman.

In his address to the council, the chairman of the constitutional committee, Dr Worrall, referred to the powers of the proposed executive president and to the position of the Blacks. Dr Worrall said the committee believed that there should be a separation of powers between the executive and legislative authorities. In this way, the president could be prevented from obtaining power over all departments of government, including the legislature. With reference to the Blacks, the committee had eventually decided that, for the foreseeable future, it would be highly undesirable to integrate Whites, Coloreds and Indians, including the Blacks, in a unitary state.

The President's Council unanimously adopted a resolution which will be referred to the state president together with a first report of the constitutional committee as a comment on it. It reads that, after consideration of the relations between the nonparliamentary executive authority and the legislative authority, the constitutional committee is convinced that the legislature will possess sufficient power to prevent the proposed president from exercising excessive powers. The council also emphasizes that it is its considered opininon that in any new constitution the independence of the judicial authority will be preserved if not reinforced.

Earlier in the debate, Dr Mohamed had said that he firmly believed that there was no future for the country in a dispensation that did not include Blacks. Dr Worrall said Dr Mohamed had to be frank: If he wanted Black majority rule or domination as some called it, then he would have to say so straightforwardly.

A Colored leader, Mr Loft Adams, said the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, should continue with his initiative to reform the country and bring it to its senses. Where South Africans stood today was not important. Mr Adams said that what was important was the direction in which the country was going, and he believed it was the right one.

KWA-ZULU DELEGATION DESCRIBES SWAZI AIMS

MB191126 Umtata Transkei Capital Radio in English 0900 GMT 19 May 82

[Text] Relations between the Kwa-Zulu Cabinet and the South African minister of development have reached an all-time low.

Carmen Rikard reports: [Begin recording] Taperecordings are now made of all discussions between Dr Koornhof and the Kwa-Zulu Cabinet. This was revealed in the Ulundi Assembly by the member for Umbumbulu, who said the step had been taken because Kwa-Zulu ministers don't trust Dr Koornhof.

In a further criticism of the central government, another member compared the policy of removing Black people with Nazi attempts to move the Jews from their homes.

Meanwhile, tension about the fate of Ngwavuma [Kwa-Zulu territory northeast of Swaziland] is growing. A Kwa-Zulu delegation sent to Swaziland has told the Ulundi Assembly that King Sobhuza is determined to incorporate Ngwavuma into his territory. He is prepared to risk Zulu-Swazi clashes, or an appeal to the World Court, to achieve this. [end recording]